

## 36

# Freedom Struggle in India

### 36.1 INTRODUCTION

In the previous lesson, you have learnt about colonialism and its impact on Indian polity, economy, society and culture. Sooner or later, all the sections of the Indian people experienced colonial burden and realised its ill impacts. It brought forth a new consciousness — Indian nationalism. In course of time, they joined hands in the formation of a grand alliance for the struggle for freedom from the colonial rule. Let us see how it materialised and how India got independence.

### 36.2 OBJECTIVES

After reading this lesson, you will be able to:

- recall the 1st War of Independence;
- trace the birth of the Indian National Congress and its role in the Indian Freedom Struggle;
- compare the ideology, programme and contribution made by the moderates and extremists;
- describe the role of Mahatma Gandhi in Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movement; and
- analyse the role played by Netaji and the Indian National Army in freedom struggle.

### 36.3 FIRST WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

The British Government exploited the Indian economy. East India company utilised Indian economic surplus and drained it into their mother land. They charged higher prices for their finished goods and paid bare minimum for the raw material. They, therefore ended the traditional village life of autonomy and self-rule. This policy led to the new class of Zamindars who repressed the poor people. This resulted in decline of agriculture. A major part of Indian revenue was spent on military and the British personnel. Lord Macaulay introduced English not only for communication but for Christianisation of Indians also.

The British policy of annexation deprived Indian rulers of their Kingdoms. Social and religious leaders like Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1774–1833), Swami Daya Nand, Sir Syed

Ahmed Khan, Mrs. Annie Besant, Govind Ranade, Rama Krishna Paramhans, Swami Vivekanand (1861–92) etc. made the people conscious of their rich culture and civilisation. They also tried to eradicate the social evils prevalent in the society. The spirit of nationalism in the society was influenced by the socio-religious reforms propagated by them.

In addition to the above factors, there was discrimination in services including defence services. The Indian sepoys were paid less wages as compared to their British counterparts and were treated badly. The Britishers introduced the new Enfield Rifle. The paper covering of the bullets had to be bitten off before use. It was said that the fat of cows and pigs was used for greasing these bullets. Both Hindu and Muslim sepoys refused to use them because of religious reasons. Because of their refusal, 85 soldiers were tried in Meerut by the British and were sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. There was a strong protest from their colleagues and they killed many British officials.

Because of the above factors and the attitude of the East India Company, there was a revolt in 1857 against East India Company. It began on 10th May, 1857 at Meerut and soon spread to Agra, Barreilly, Kanpur, Lucknow and other parts of the country. Nana Sahib, Rani Jhansi Laxami Bai, Tantia Tope, Bahadur Shah Zafar and other revolutionary leaders fought the battle valiantly but were crushed by the British.

This revolt was a failure because of the absence of common purpose, unity and co-ordination among the different sections of the people and non-availability of modern techniques and weapons with the Sepoys and the rebels.

This revolt came as a shock to the British as they thought that Indians were quite satisfied with the administration of the East India Company and were fully reconciled to their rule over India.

Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru in his book 'Discovery of India' has described this revolt as our 'First War of Independence'. Britishers dubbed it as 'Mutiny' a mere sepoy rebellion i.e. a revolt by a small section of the soldiers. But it was a wide-spread struggle launched by some princes and the last Mughal Emperor – Bahadur Shah Zafar and soldiers with a common objective of throwing the Britishers from our country and thus it was a challenge posed by Indians for the British government.

As a result of the revolt of 1857, the Act of 1858 was passed in the British Parliament. The East India Company was dissolved and the Indian administration was taken over by the British Govt. By virtue of this Act, the Governor-general became the Viceroy, a nominee of the Crown who represented the British Queen in India. He was to run the administration in India. The Government of India was placed under the control and direction of the Secretary of the State for India who was a member of the British Govt. He was assisted by a Council of 15 members.

Although in the famous 'Declaration of Queen Victoria of 1858, it was proclaimed that Indians would be appointed to the higher posts without any racial discrimination but it was not implemented at all. This made Indians angry with the British Govt. The British Government also tried to please the Indian Princes by assuring them their "rights, dignity and honour" in this declaration but the princes too were disappointed with their behaviour.

### **INTEXT QUESTIONS 36.1**

Choose the correct answer :

1. The Revolt of 1857 first started at:
  - (a) Agra
  - (b) Delhi
  - (c) Meerut

- (d) Jhansi
2. The Queen's Proclamation of November, 1858:
- pardoned all those who revolted against the Britishers.
  - allowed Indian Judges to try whites
  - transferred power from East India Company to the British Crown
  - created a bi-cameral legislature.
3. Who has described the revolt of 1857 as 'First War of Independence' in his book 'Discovery of India'?
- Lala Lajpat Rai,
  - Jawahar Lal Nehru
  - Bipin Chandra Pal
  - Subhash Chandra Bose.

### 36.4 INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

The failure of the 1st War of Independence did not succeed in extinguishing the urge for freedom. It taught a lesson to freedom fighters. The proclamation of Queen of 1858, did not satisfy them. Following are the factors responsible for the growth of political consciousness after 1857 leading to the birth of Indian National Congress.

The Britishers, after 1857, showed a new spirit of racialism and arrogance. They maltreated Indians. Even Indian women were publicly insulted. There was discrimination in services also. The Indian Civil Service examination was deliberately made difficult for the Indians by conducting the examination in England and fixing a lower entrance age. Shri S.N. Banerjee & Aurobindo Ghosh were not given jobs. They became pioneers of the agitation. The development of means of communication and transport provided facilities and introduction of western education brought the people close to each other.

During the Viceroyalty of Lord Lytton, the British had taken a repressive policy. The Arms Act which required every Indian to obtain licence for keeping arms made people angry with them. The Vernacular Press Act was passed to curb the freedom of Indians. This caused despair among the Indians who turned against the British Govt. The British did not try to feel the pulse of the people and failed to analyse the causes of revolt of 1857. They made the Indians economically crippled by drawing out the Indian wealth to Britain and burdened Indians with taxes. They did not help the people even in famines. On the other hand when starving people were dying, the Britishers were spending lavishly by holding 'Darbars'. This made the people angry. The educated people decided to oppose the policies like the Press Act, the Arms Act, and the exclusion of Indians from the I.C.S. They felt the need for a common platform for opposing the Britishers for their repressive policies. As such in order to give resistance to their action, the Indian started forming Associations to fight against the Government unitedly.

In the year 1866, the East Indian Association was formed by Dadabhai Naoroji in England to elicit favourable public opinion. Justice Govind Ranade organised the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha in 1870 followed by formation of National League in Bengal and the Madras Mahajan Sabha. These associations started voicing the public grievances against the government.

In addition to above associations, the most important nationalist organisation was the Indian Association founded under the leadership of Surendra Nath Banerjee in 1876. The objective

of this Association was to represent and safeguard the interests of the educated middle class. This association protested against the government's decision of reducing the age for sitting in the civil service examination from 21 to 19. This association sponsored an All India National Conference in Calcutta in December, 1883. Shri S.N. Banerjee opened its branches in various parts of the country and started the idea of collective efforts for the welfare of the people but this organisation could not become a truly representative national body.

In 1885, the 'Theosophical Society' organised 'Workers' Conference' in Adyar, Madras. It was resolved to convene a conference of political workers and leaders to form a national level organisation. Mr. A.O. Hume a retired civil servant convinced the British officials and Indians about the utility of formation of such an organisation. He addressed a letter to the graduates of Calcutta University calling them to render services to the nation. His efforts were a step towards uniting all political associations. He organised a conference of political workers under the auspices of Indian National Union at Bombay on December 25, 1885. This meeting was presided by Womesh Chandra Banerjee. On the suggestion of Dada Bhai Nauroji, it was renamed as the Indian National Congress. According to Shri W.C. Banerjee, the President of the first conference of the Congress, the aim "was to unite the important politicians of India once in a year with the objective of deliberating on the main social problems facing the country".

The credit for formation of the Indian National Congress goes to A.O. Hume. He is called the founder of the Indian National Congress. He was of the opinion that the Indian Political leaders should assemble once in a year and discuss social problems. The Congress was the forum to encourage the educated Indian to point out to the government about its shortcomings and its policies relating to the exploitation of masses.

### **1. Programme of the Indian National Congress**

During the initial period, the Congress was a reformist, liberal organisation. Its objective was not autonomy or independence of the country. Its leaders believed in the progressive policies of the British Government. They wanted that the government's policy should be liberal. The Congress was dominated by leaders such as Phiroze Shah Metha, Dada Bhai Nauroji, Surendra Nath Banerjee, Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya, Gopal Krishan Gokhale, M.G. Ranade etc. who were described as Moderates. The Indian National Congress from 1885 till the Independence laid emphasis upon social reforms such as equality of castes, literacy amongst masses, rise of women's status etc.

The Congress was in favour of increasing participation of Indians in the administration of the country. They demanded that there should be Indians in Governor General's Council, and the judiciary should be separated from the Executive. They were also in favour of reducing the government expenditure.

The leaders of the Indian National Congress were equally in favour of giving liberty to Indians. They wanted the annulment of Preventive Detention Act and stopping of inhuman treatment towards Indians, freedom of the Press and lifting of restrictions on the 'Vernacular Press'. They demanded increased number of Courts including High Courts in order to expedite the pending cases.

The Indian National Congress was in favour of industrialisation, promotion of Indian trade and patronage of Indian goods, scrapping of tax on salt, reduction of land revenue etc. expenses on military.

The Congress spent about 20 years in advocating the above reforms. They wanted more representation of Indians in the legislative bodies and in government jobs. It passed

resolutions at its conferences in the form of appeals to the British government for redressal of grievances and sufferings of the Indian people. This period is known as the period of 'liberalism' or moderate nationalism.

The Congress co-operated with the Government. It believed that the efficient administration would bring peace and prosperity in the country. At that time, the Congress had faith in the honesty, justice and integrity of the Britishers and adopted peaceful and constitutional means. The language used was of appeal and prayer. In case of necessity, it used to send deputations of leading Indians to Britain to propagate the Indian views.

## INTEXT QUESTIONS 36.2

Fill in the blanks with appropriate words :

- A.
1. Introduction of western education brought the people \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. The age for entrance examination in Indian Civil service was lowered from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. The Indian Association was established in the year 1876 under the leadership of \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. The Indian National Congress was founded in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. The first session of the Indian National Congress was presided over by \_\_\_\_\_.
  6. The English man associated with the establishment of the Congress was \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Choose the correct answer :
- i) In the Indian National Congress, who was regarded as 'Moderate'?
    - a) Lala Lajpat Rai
    - b) Lokmanya Tilak
    - c) Bipin Chandra Pal
    - d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
  - ii) 'Theosophical Society organised workers' conference in:
    - a) Madras
    - b) Bombay
    - c) Calcutta
    - d) Lucknow.
  - iii) The initial period of 20 years of the Indian National Congress is regarded as the period of:
    - a) Gandhism
    - b) Socialism
    - c) Liberalism
    - d) Fascism.

## 2. The Extremists

In the beginning of 20th century, the young people started doubting the effectiveness of the moderate constitutional means of the Congress. They were of the opinion that people should have the idea of self-reliance and independence for putting pressure on the

government. They were against the ideas like charity or mercy in policies.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak of Maharashtra, Bipin Chandra Pal of Bengal, Lala Lajpat Rai of Punjab, popularly known as 'Lal Bal Pal', were the originators of this movement. They gave a call for boycott of foreign goods, use of indigenous goods and struggle against the Britishers. This call attracted the people in large number. The following factors made the extremists to oppose the reformist movement of the Congress :

- i) The British Government did not give importance to the resolution passed by the Congress for the above demands from time to time. The government did not care for improving Indian economy. For instance, the government removed the tariff on clothes manufactured at Lancashire but imposed taxes on Indian cloth.
- ii) At the end of 19th Century, the country faced several famines and epidemics such as Plague and cholera. The measures adopted by the government were inadequate. About two crore people were affected by it. Instead of help, the government started repressive measures. Bal Gangadhar Tilak raised his voice against the misdeeds of the government in his daily newspaper 'Kesari' and aroused the patriotic feelings of the people.
- iii) Lord Curzon's policy on 'Bengal partition' added fuel to the youths' anger. He wanted to partition Bengal into two parts - one Hindu dominated region of Bengal and the other Muslim majority region, consisting of eastern Bengal and Assam. Agitations were held to protest against this action. A petition against this partition was sent to the Secretary of the State but to no avail. The extremists gave a call for boycott of foreign goods and use of indigenous goods.
- iv) International events like defeat of Russians at the hands of a small country like Japan in 1905 and defeat of Italians by Ethiopians in 1896 roused the morale of Indian youth and thus encouraged the revolutionary ideas.
- v) In the Congress session held at 1906 at Calcutta, extremists placed the resolution of boycott of foreign goods and use of indigenous goods. Moderate leaders like Dada Bhai Nauroji, Phiroz Shah Mehta and S.N. Banerjee did not agree with this resolution. The differences with extremists put the situation beyond the control of moderates.

### 3. Programmes and Policies of the Extremists

Extremists opposed the liberal policies of the moderates. They were against the appeasement policy of the moderates. They were of the opinion that sacrifice is essential for freedom as the Britishers would not leave the country voluntarily. They were in favour of using force. Extremists were of two groups-non-violent and violent.

Non-violent extremists wanted to adopt non-violent means for awakening the national consciousness. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal belong to this group-known as leaders of 'Garam Dal'. They were for self-respect and believed that they had the capacity to run the government – on the basis of self government or Home Rule. Common people also participated and laid emphasis on the following :

- i) launching Swadeshi movement with boycott of foreign goods and use of indigenous things. The people made bonfires of foreign goods and thus, gave boost to the Indian industry;
- ii) encouragement boycott of titles given by the British government;
- iii) boycott of government jobs;
- iv) boycott of government schools and colleges. They were against western education

and laid emphasis on national and vocational education. This cultivated the feeling of patriotism and a sense of sacrifice among Indians.

The other group of extremists believed in violent means. It included Vir Savarkar, Shyamji Krishna Verma, Khudiram Bose, Kanhai Lal of Bengal, Sardar Ajit Singh, Bhai Parmanand, Lala Hardayal of Punjab, Awadh Behari, Dina Nath and Master Amir Chand of Delhi. They did not believe in passive resistance. They adopted the method of bombing and assassinating the British Officers.

Because of the difference in approach the Congress was split in the year 1907 at its Surat session. There was a difference in both groups on the election of the President of the Congress. Extremists were in favour of making Lala Lajpat Rai as the President while the other group sponsored the candidature of Ras Bihari Bose. Moderates became prepared for a change in their programme and agreed to include the concept of Swadeshi, boycott of foreign goods and imparting of national education etc.

Because of majority of moderates in the Congress, Lala Lajpat Rai was defeated in the election for the President of the Congress. Extremists were expelled from the party for opposition of moderates. The government adopted the repressive measures with the extremists like Lokmanya Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal and they were arrested.

With the efforts of Annie Besant and others both the groups of the Congress-moderates and extremists-united in 1916 and the Congress became a force in the national movement again.

### INTEXT QUESTIONS 36.3

Answer the following questions briefly :

1. Name the two leaders who were regarded as 'Extremist'  
.....  
.....
2. Write on two important policies of the extremists.  
.....  
.....
3. When did the Indian National Congress split and in which session?  
.....  
.....
4. Name the two groups of the extremists.  
.....  
.....
5. Who was the prominent leader with whose efforts both groups of the Indian National Congress-Moderate and Extremist-united in the year 1916?  
.....  
.....
6. Who were known as Lal, Bal, Pal ?  
.....  
.....

## 36.5 ROLE OF MAHATMA GANDHI IN NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT

Mahatma Gandhi arrived in India in January, 1915 from South Africa after success in his agitational method in South Africa. Gopal Krishan Gokhale persuaded him to return to India and take part in public life. Gandhi was initially an admirer of the British traditions and culture. He offered his co-operation to the British in the First World War which was going on at that time. He was awarded the 'Kaiser-i-Hind' gold medal for his help to them in the w:



36.1 Photograph of Mahatma Gandhi

The reforms introduced in the Act of 1919 had a mixed reaction. It caused a split in the Congress. Moderates 'under the leadership of S.N. Banerjee' whole-heartedly accepted the reforms while the Indian National Congress in its session held in December, 1919 termed it as "inadequate, unsatisfactory and disappointing". However, the Congress had the attitude of co-operation with the hope of having responsible government in near future. Tilak had termed the reforms as "unsatisfactory and disappointing – A sunless Dawn".

The attitude of the Congress however changed after a lapse of 9 months. In its special session held at Calcutta in September, 1920, it adopted the non-cooperation programme and decided to boycott the reformed councils and adopted the concept of Swadeshi.

The following events were responsible for the change of attitude of the Congress :

Rowlatt Act and Khilafat Movement – resulting into Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Both Hindus and Muslims were agitated over this.

After first World War, the Government of India wanted to arm itself with extraordinary powers as it felt that the force of nationalism had intensified. They wanted to deal with the people who were against them with a stern hand.

Two bills were introduced in the Imperial Legislative Council in February, 1919, which are called Rowlatt Bills. One bill empowered the government to lock up any body without a trial. There was no appeal allowed against it. Indian members in the Council opposed the bill as this would harass the political workers. The bill was passed on March 17, 1919 inspite of protests. Country wide agitation started against this bill.

Mahatma Gandhi gave a call for hartal on 6th April, 1919 and to observe it as a day of mourning on which no business was to be transacted by way of popular demonstration against the high-handed action of the Government in enacting the Rowlatt Act.

In the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, about 50,000 strong crowd peacefully assembled in the public meeting on April 13, 1919 to protest against the arrest of their leaders and Rowlatt Act. General Dyer declared this meeting illegal and started machine gun fire on the innocent and disarmed people. Thousands of people were killed as they could not escape because of the existence of one narrow passage for exit. Martial law was imposed. There was resentment against this action of the British government.

Special session of the Congress was convened to review the situation. The Indian National Congress in its session held in 1920 passed a resolution for non co-operation with the government. This was reaffirmed later by an overwhelming majority at the regular session of the Congress, held in 1920 at Nagpur.

The Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi adopted resolution for the first time during the 35 years since its inception in 1885 for the direct action against the government.

## 1. Programme

In their non-cooperation movement, the Congress decided for the following aspects:

- a) surrender of titles (Sir, Rai Sahib, Rai Bahadur, Knight-hood etc.) and honorary offices;
- b) resignation from the local bodies and nominated seats;
- c) boycott of official functions, darbar etc.;
- d) withdrawal of children from government run school and aided schools;
- e) boycott of courts by lawyers and litigants;
- f) boycott of foreign goods;
- g) boycott of election to the reformed councils; and
- h) non-payment of rent etc.

In addition to above the Indian National Congress also decided for the following positive points :

- i) advocacy for the establishment of national schools and colleges;
- ii) establishment of private arbitration courts for settlement of cases;
- iii) popularisation of the Swadeshi cloth and revival of hand-spinning and handweaving;
- iv) hindu-Muslim unity and removal of untouchability; and
- v) replacement of English by Hindi.

Mahatma Gandhi declared that Truth or Satya as supreme strategy would be adopted for the attainment of 'Swaraj'. Non-violence or Ahimsa was to be dominating principle of the whole movement. This movement got the support of the people from the very beginning. They adopted the concept of Swadeshi and boycotted the foreign goods.

All India Congress Committee in July, 1931 decided to boycott the welcome of the Prince of Wales to India because of the repressive policy of the government. On the day of arrival of the Prince to India, hartal was observed in Bombay and there were clashes between the police and people. The Congress and the khilafat volunteers organisation were declared as unlawful but people did not care. By December, 1921 about 25,000 people including our leaders- C.R. Das, Moti Lal Nehru, Maulana Azad and others were arrested.

Because of the repressive measures, the Congress in its session held towards the end of December 1921, decided to intensify the struggle and start Civil Disobedience Movement. Before starting civil movement, Mahatma Gandhi wrote a letter to Lord Reading for stopping the repression within 7 days. But before the expiry of notice period, agitated mob burned 21 policemen and a sub-inspector alive in a police station of Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur District of Uttar Pradesh on February 5, 1922. This happened because of the firing by the Police on the Congress procession. Mahatma Gandhi felt so horrified with the violence that he ordered the suspension of movement at once.

This action of violence was bitterly criticised by the rank and file of the Congress. The Congress leaders - C.R. Das, M.L. Nehru, J.L. Nehru, Lala Lajpat Rai, Ali brothers and others did not like the action of Gandhi at such a critical stage when they were about to drive out the Britishers. As a result of such criticism, Mahatma Gandhi's popularity was affected.

In spite of its failure, the entire movement was mass-based and it helped the cause of independence.

## 2. Civil Disobedience Movement

The government was unwilling to accept the Nehru Report which was for a full dominion status. The Congress decided to have 'Poorna Swarajya'. The Congress in its session held on 31st December, 1929 under the presidentship of J.L. Nehru at Lahore adopted a resolution for complete independence. It was decided to observe 26th January as a day of independence every year. 26th January, 1930 was celebrated as First Independence day. Although Constituent Assembly adopted our Constitution on 26th November, 1949, it was enforced on 26th January, 1950 to commemorate the importance of the day in the national movement.

The government was not willing to give dominion status as per Nehru report. The people started Civil Disobedience Movement because of economic depression and repression.

Seeing the stiff attitude of the government, the Congress Working Committee declared on 11th February, 1930 to start Civil Disobedience Movement and authorised Mahatma Gandhi to start this movement. He wrote a letter to the Viceroy intimating of starting of this movement but government did not respond positively.

Mahatma Gandhi started his second Civil Disobedience Movement on 12th March, 1930 by a march to Dandi alongwith 79 followers to break the salt-law as it was an offence to prepare it even from the sea water. It had been made costlier by double taxation in 1923 and affected the poor people.

Mahatma Gandhi alongwith marchers covered the journey of 200 miles on foot from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi (Known as 'Dandi March') in 24 days. He was greeted all the way. Mahatma Gandhi violated salt laws and his followers made salt at many places in the country. This aroused national feelings. People picketed wine shops and made bonfires of foreign goods. Many Indian Government servants abstained from duty. Lawyers stopped co-operating with the government. This was a non-violent civil disobedience movement by a deliberate breach of law technically. Because of this, import of foreign goods was affected. The Indian mills had good business. 'Red Shirts', under the leadership of Khan Abul Ghaffar Khan known as 'Frontier Gandhi' took a leading part in this movement.

Seeing the popularity of this movement, Government resorted to merciless repression. Mahatma Gandhi and J.L. Nehru and other leaders were arrested. More than 60,000 people courted arrest taking part in the struggle. Congress was again declared unlawful

organisation. This movement was called off on 5th March, 1931 after the signing of the Gandhi Irwin Pact.

### 3. Quit India Movement

In Cripps proposal, there was a provision for full dominion status after the Second World War. Option of the Indian states to remain out of the Union was rejected by both the Congress as well as the Muslim League. Leaders of both parties wanted to have more powers. The Government suddenly withdrew the proposals on April 11, 1942 without having further negotiations.

This withdrawal was a shock to the Congress. Mahatma Gandhi felt that individual satyagrah could not serve the purpose. He evolved the idea of "Quit India" in his article in "The Harijan". The Congress Working Committee, in a resolution passed in July, 1942 at Wardha demanded the withdrawal of the British from India. Later on, this resolution was passed by the All India Congress Committee at its meeting held at Bombay on August 8, 1942.

It was a mass struggle. Non-violence was the basis of the movement. Mahatma Gandhi termed this movement as the last struggle of his life to win the freedom of India. He declared that it was a decision 'to do or die'.

On August 9, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi and other members of the Congress Working Committee were arrested throughout the country. Again Congress was declared an unlawful association. Its offices were raided and its funds were frozen. Firing took place at many places which was resented by the people by observing Hartal, taking out processions and holding meetings. The public damaged the government property at many places. The socialist party leaders like Jai Prakash Narain, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali went underground and organised a violent underground movement to dislodge the Government.

At that time, the country had no leader to lead the movement. The stern repressive policy of Lord Linlithgo with the backing of British Prime Minister, Churchill, crushed the "People's Revolt of 1942". Muslim League did not support this movement, and demanded a separate state. However on June, 1945, the British Governments put up Cripps proposals again before the Congress leaders which had been withdrawn by them earlier in 1942.

Mahatma Gandhi fell seriously ill in the Jail. The Government released him on 6th May, 1944 lest he might die in prison and there would be law and order problem in the country.

### INTEXT QUESTIONS 36.4

A. Choose the correct answer :

1. Rowlatt Act aimed at:
  - a) promotion of communal harmony
  - b) arresting Indians without trial
  - c) allowing Indian judges to try non-Indians
  - d) granted special rights to Europeans.
2. Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred on
  - a) 15th February, 1918
  - b) 17th March, 1919
  - c) 13th April, 1919

- d) 5th February, 1922.
- 3. Mahatma Gandhi ordered suspension of Civil Movement because he felt horrified with the violence that occurred at the Congress Session held at:
  - a) Jallianwala Bagh.
  - b) Chauri Chaura
  - c) Surat
  - d) Meerut
- 4. 'Puran Swaraj' (complete Independence) was demanded at the Congress Session held at:
  - a) Lucknow in 1916
  - b) Calcutta in 1928
  - c) Lahore in 1929
  - d) Nagpur in 1931
- 5. Who is known as 'Frontier Gandhi'?
  - a) Mohammad Ali Jinnah
  - b) Abdul Kalam Azad
  - c) Dr. Zakir Hussain
  - d) Abdul Gaffar Khan.

**B. Answer the following :**

- 1. What did Gandhi term as the 'Quit India Movement'?  
.....  
.....
- 2. Name the two socialist party leaders who organised a violent underground movement during 'Quit India Movement'.  
.....  
.....
- 3. When was first Independence day celebrated during the freedom struggle?  
.....  
.....
- 4. What was the dominating principle of the National Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi?  
.....  
.....
- 5. When did Mahatma Gandhi start his second Civil Disobedience Movement ?

---

### **36.6 ROLE OF NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE IN THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT**

In the Congress, there was a group which was influenced by the socialistic idea. This

group had young elements such as Subhash Chander Bose, J.L. Nehru, J.P. Narain, Acharya Narendra Dev, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia as its workers. They worked in mobilising the working class and the peasant for the national movement and radicalising the Congress. Again there was a division in this group. Some members formed Forward Block with Subhash Chander Bose as its member. Netaji did not agree with Gandhiji on peaceful agitation. He launched an uncompromising struggle against the British imperialism after the outbreak of Second World War. The government banned this organisation and arrested almost all its important leaders. Subhash Chander Bose was also arrested but, in a very mysterious way, he escaped from the custody of the government and reached Germany and Japan via Kabul. He organised 'Azad Hind Fauz' though a step in this direction had already been taken up by Captain Mohan Singh. He made Indian National Army out of the Indian prisoners in Japan. He was Supreme Commander of the Azad Hind Fauj. A woman's regiment (Rani Jhansi) was also formed under the captaincy of Laxmi Swaminathan. He came to Singapore via Japan. He established a provincial government of 'Azad Hindustan' with H.Q. at Singapore on October 21, 1943. His government was given recognition by many nations. He declared war against the U.S.A. and its allies and made Burma as H.Q. He called upon the people to give him their blood and he would give them independence.

The Indian National Army penetrated into the Indian soil and took possession of some area of Manipur Aishavpur. He planned to march by declaring 'Delhi Chalo' (March to Delhi). Inspite of his determination, his dream of liberating the motherland was not fulfilled due to shortage of food, lack of forces, ammunition and onset of monsoon.

The action of the Indian National Army awakened the national feelings and had its impact on all sections of the people. The people were prepared to make any sacrifice for the country. The slogan 'Jai Hind' influenced the people greatly. It is sad to say that Netaji was reported to be killed in an air-crash.

Shah Nawaz, Dhillon and Sehgal who had deserted Indian Army to join INA of Netaji Subhash Bose were tried before a Court Martial in Red Fort, Delhi. The Congress leaders defended these patriotic sons of India. The Court Martial convicted them and awarded death penalty for sedition. There was resentment among people against this decision. As such the government did not dare to execute them. Governor-General set them free by using his special powers.

The contribution of Netaji and members of Indian National Army is significant. They aroused national feelings. Their action forced the British government to free the country at the earliest. His dreams came true and India became free on 15th August, 1947 after a long struggle.

### INTEXT QUESTIONS 36.5

Answer the following :

1. Name the two leaders of the Indian National Congress who were ideologically influenced by the socialistic ideas.  
.....
2. Who was the founder of Indian National Army?  
.....
3. What was the slogan of Subhash Chander Bose for Independence?  
.....
4. When did Netaji Subhash establish a provincial government of 'Azad Hindustan'?

and where?

5. Who gave us the slogan of 'Jai Hind'?

## WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

The Britishers exploited our economy. They used our economic surplus for their own gain and drained our wealth to their motherland. They devised the policy of 'divide and rule' and aroused communal feelings in our society.

In 1857, there was a revolt against the regime of East India Company because of exploitation and other factors. Our leaders termed it as 'First War of Independence' whereas Britishers dubbed it as 'Mutiny' – a mere 'sepoy rebellion'. Although it failed because of the absence of common purpose, unity and co-ordination, and non-availability of modern weapons and Social, religious and economic factors awakened the national feelings among the people of India. Communication and transport, introduction of western education brought the people closer to each other and they decided to dislodge the British Government. The people felt the need for a common platform to oppose the Britishers and they started forming associations in order to fight the Government unitedly. It was in 1885 that the Indian National Congress came into existence. During the first 20 years of its inception, the Congress was reformist and liberal organisation.

In the beginning of 20th century, young members of Indian National Congress became opponents of liberal policies of the Moderates.

Because of the difference of opinion the Congress was splitted in the year 1907 at its Surat session. However, with the efforts of Annie Besant and other leaders, both groups got united in the year 1916 and the Congress started the struggle for freedom unitedly. Non-corporation (1920-22), the Civil Disobedience (1930) and the Quit India (1947) Movements proved milestones in the subsequent period. Finally it was in 1947 that India got Independence from the British rule.

In 1915, Mahatma Gandhi came back from South Africa, where he successfully opposed the policy of racial discrimination of the South-African government with non-violent means. After the passage of Rowlatt Act which aimed at arresting any Indian without trial, there was a protest all over the country. The feelings of Indian people were suppressed resulting in 'Jallianwala Bagh massacre'.

Congress became agitated with the above massacre and with other events in the country and decided to launch non-cooperation movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. In this movement, people boycotted foreign goods and govt. institutions and made bonfires of foreign goods. However, Mahatma Gandhi suspended this movement because of violence in Chauri Chaura (Gorakhpur). Mahatma Gandhi launched civil disobedience movement again in 1930 by a march to DANDI to break the salt-law.

The Congress in its Lahore session held on 31st December, 1929 adopted a resolution for complete independence and decided to observe 26th January every year as 'independence day' till the country gets independence.

With the out-break of second world war and Britishers not taking the Congress into confidence for war, Congressmen became agitated. Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi decided to launch 'Quit India Movement'. He termed this as the last struggle of his life to win the freedom. This was a decision to 'do or die'. It was a mass struggle based on non-violence. But this movement was also crushed with a heavy hand.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose with his Indian National Army played a significant role in the achievement of freedom. He declared war against the British. He aroused national feelings among the people.

Netaji and other freedom fighter's dream became true and India got independence on 15th August, 1947 after a long freedom struggle.

### **TERMINAL EXERCISES**

1. Give two reasons for the revolt of 1857.
2. What were the main causes of the failure of the revolt of 1857?
3. List the main factors that were responsible for national awakening in India.
4. How did the introduction of English language and modern means of transport and communication affect our National movement?
5. What was the policy and programme of the Indian National Congress during the first 20 years?
6. Compare the ideology, programme and role of Moderates and Extremists in the freedom struggle.
7. Describe the role of Mahatma Gandhi in India's freedom struggle.
8. Write short notes on :
  - a) Non-Cooperation Movement of 1920.
  - b) Civil Disobedience Movement.
  - c) Quit India Movement, 1942.
9. Analyse the role of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and his Indian National Army in the freedom-struggle.

## KEY TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

- 36.1 1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (b)
- 36.2 A. 1. close to each other  
 2. 21 to 19  
 3. S.N. Banerjee  
 4. 1885  
 5. Womesh Chandra Banerjee  
 6. A.O. Hume.
- B. i) (d) ii) (a)
- 36.3 1. Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lokmanya Tilak (any two)  
 2. boycott of foreign goods and use of indigenous goods.  
 3. In the year 1907 in its Surat Session.  
 4. Non-violent and violent groups.  
 5. Mrs. Annie Besant.  
 6. Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal
- 36.4 A. 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (b)  
 4 (c) 5 (d) Last struggle of his life for freedom.
- B. 1. 'Do or die'  
 2. Jai Prakash Narain, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Mrs Aruna Asaf Ali (Any two)  
 3. 26th January, 1930  
 4. Non-violence  
 5. 12th March, 1930.
- 36.5 1. Subhash Chand Bose, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Jai Parkash Narain, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. (Any two)  
 2. Subhash Chandra Bose  
 3. "Give me your blood and I will give you independence".  
 4. On 21st October, 1943 at Singapore  
 5. Subhash Chandra Bose.

## TERMINAL EXERCISES

1. Refer to section No. 36.3
2. Refer to section No. 36.3.
3. Refer to section.No. 36.4.
4. Refer to section No. 36.4.
5. Refer to section No. 36.4.
6. Refer to section No. 36.4.1 and 36.4.2
7. Refer to section No. 36.5.1., 36.5.2, 36.5.3.
8. Refer to section  
 a) 36.5.1. b) 36.5.2 c) 36.5.3.
9. Refer to section 2.6.