



Cover Page



REACTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES AGAINST THE TRAIL ON INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY (INA) IN 1945

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Abstract

This paper brings an initial report of reaction by public and different political Parties on the trail by British government on Indian National Army. The main purpose of this paper is to understand the thoughts of public regarding Indian National Army. It is also tried to understand the base of nationalism in India. The result of this paper will solve many problems to new scholar who wanted to understand the Nationalism and Indian National Army.

Keywords: Indian National Army, Indian National Congress, Muslim League, Public, British Government.

Introduction

Indian National Army was first formed by Mohan Singh, he was an officer in the British Indian Army. When the Japanese defeated Britain in the countries of South East Asia, many soldiers were taken captive by the Japanese and these captive soldiers were handed over to Mohan Singh. By uniting these soldiers, Mohan Singh formed the Indian National Army, but Mohan Singh had differences with the Japanese regarding the number of soldiers, due to which he could not get any help from Japan.

The second phase of the Indian National Army began when Subhash Chandra Bose came back to Singapore from Germany. The Japanese emperor assured Subhash Chandra Bose of assistance then he again formed the government of independent India on October 21, 1943 in Singapore and declared war against Britain and the United State America. Germany, Japan and their supporting countries gave recognition to this government. In November 1948, the Japanese announced their decision to hand over the administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the Indian National Army. Thus, the Indian National Army made a bold start for India's independence. The Indian people and the Indians living across the ocean openly cooperated with the Indian National Army by providing financial and materials support. The Slogan of the Indian National Army namely "Jai Hind" and "Delhi Chalo" were also very enthusiastic. The most famous announcement was that in which he said "You give me blood, I will give you freedom" (S.A. Ayyar 2006).

Victory Campaign

Indian National Army started its victory campaign with the help of Japanese and hoisted the tricolor flag in 1944 after crossing the Indian border, but after its initial success, it had to face defeat, for which there were many reasons, in which the main reason was that the trend of the Second World War was changing. Japanese and German forces were being defeated at many places, due to which Indian National Army also had to retreat. After the surrender of Japan, when the soldiers of Indian National Army were brought to India as prisoners of war and there were proposals to punish them harshly. Meetings, Marches were taken out and Strike took place all over the nation. At this time around 2000 soldiers of Indian National Army were prisoners of war. Six soldiers of these were shot by the government (Shivar Kumar, Bashu 2011).

Charge sheet

In view of the growing opposition of Indian public opinion regarding the policy adopted by the British Government against the soldiers of the Indian National Army. British government feel that prosecution against soldiers of I.N.A. at large numbers can be harmful. That's why the government decided to prosecute some selected soldiers and officers. The Commander-in-Chief presented a list of soldiers and officers containing the names of 92 persons who were to be prosecuted for brutally murdering and aiding members of the Japanese Imperial Army and waging war against the Emperor, but at the end Commander-in-Chief could present only 7 names to the Governor General, those names are as follows: Prem Kumar Sehgal, Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon, Burhanuddin, Shahnawaz Khan, Abul Rashid, Dhar Singh and Fateh Khan etc. In the last time only three prominent officers of the Indian National Army were prosecuted by the British government and these three officers were Prem Kumar Sehgal, Gurubaksh Singh Dhillon and Shahnawaz Khan. The trial on these three officers started on 5th November 1945 in the Red Fort, Delhi and continued till 31st December 1945 (Singh, Harkirat 2003). A case of waging war against their Majesty the Emperor of India was made against these three officers by the British Government and the prosecution was conducted under the military law.



Cover Page



Security Committee by INC

A security committee was formed by the Indian National Congress (INC) to fight the case of these accused, this committee included well-known lawyers of the country. Tej Bahadur Sapu was the chairman of this security committee formed by the Congress. But later due to his ill health, Bholabhai Desai take charge for president of this committee (Sukla, Ramlakhan 2010).

Red Fort Trail

This trial went on for about two months in the Red Fort of Delhi, these three officers used to appear in front of the court in military costumes at the time of the trial. There was already a lot of anger among the Indian people regarding this action by the British government. When the truths related to their cases were published in the newspapers, the general public developed even more sympathy for these soldiers. The Indian press also performed its duty with great determination and took the bold task of spreading the news of this trial to the general public. Soon there was a national atmosphere in favor of these soldiers in the whole country. In view of growing opposition in Indian public opinion political parties of India i.e. Congress, Hindu Mahasabha, Muslim League, Communist Party, Unionist Party, Congress Socialist Party, etc., made it a political issue and support Indian National Army (Chand, Tara 2005).

INA and INC

Most of the Congress leader's thought was not good for Indian National Army. Most of the leaders believed that the officers of this army were misguided and they believed that this foreign-aided group would not be able to do any credible work in the upcoming times, but seeing the growing sympathy of the Indian public towards Bose and Army, political leaders decided to support them. Mahatma Gandhi also considered Subhash Chandra Bose as a patriot, but they were considered to have lost their way. Apart from Congress, other political parties of the country also came forward to help the soldiers. The Congress Samajwadi Party, which did not have much sympathy for this army, was also in favor of release of these soldiers (Chandra, Vipin 2011).

INA and Muslim League

The attitude of the leaders of the Muslim League was also not very positive towards the Indian National Army and they had no interest in the programs of Indian National Army, but the main reason of the Muslim League to joining the cases was because of the trial of Captain Abdul Rasheed, who was a Muslim, keeping in mind the fact that their assembly elections and to increase their support in the general public Muslim League demanded for the release of the officers of the Indian National Army. Result of this decision. The League emerged as the breath of the interests of the Muslims (Sarkar, Sumit 2010).

INA and Hindu Mahasabha

The leaders of the Hindu Mahasabha were criticizing the British government regarding these lawsuits and the general public was getting the impression that there should be no death sentence for these military officers because in the eyes of the general public, these military officers were true patriots. The general public believed that these soldiers were not traitors but patriots and Indian National Army Day was celebrated from 5th November to 11th November and demanded the release of soldiers and officers of Indian National Army by all the political parties of the country (Bandhoppadhyaya, Sekhar 2009).

INA and Student Unions

Apart from political parties, the common people had a deep connection with these soldiers. The British Intelligence Department informed that before this, no incident in the country has influenced the public as much as the case of Indian National Army. The public were using the way of strike against the government at various places. Public anger was being expressed and was most active. Students were organizing demonstrations and meetings on different places. When this case came to know in Bengal, a procession was organized by the students of Forward Block and communist students were also participated in this event. Gradually, Muslim League's students also joined the protest with carrying the Muslim League flag. Students using flags of League, Congress and Communists and raised slogans of death to imperialism and showed amazing unity (Sukla, Ramlakhan 2010).

INA and Public

In this way, the movement had become fiercer in Punjab, Delhi United Provinces, Bombay and other provinces of the country. Apart from the cities, there was an atmosphere full of sympathy towards these officers in the villages as well. Even the class or peoples who were supporting the British Government, opposed the British Government and supported these military officers and it did not take long for the British Government to understand that if these military officers were punished then the whole country would be affected. There may be a rebellion against them, most of the government employees were also in favor of the officers and soldiers of the Indian National Army. The government's intelligence agencies also warned the British government that your most reliable and support pillar, the British Indian Army, also sympathizes with the soldiers of the Indian National Army (Green, L.C. 1948).



Cover Page



Therefore, in view of the protests of the Indian people and their deep connection with the Indian National Army, the British Government waived off the sentence of the three accused of Indian National Army. Despite this, the government sentenced another accused Abdul Rasheed, to seven years' imprisonment. Which was opposed by the Muslim League and in the end the government waived the sentence of all (Marston, Daniel 2014).

Conclusion

On the basis of the above study, it can be said that the historical case of Indian National Army not only strengthened nationalism but also shook the roots of British imperialism. After the war of Indian National Army, after the martyrdom of Subhash Chandra Bose and a result of the prosecution by the British government the Indian freedom struggle had reached on its peak. On the one hand, national consciousness came in the Indian public from this trial. On the other hand, the base pillar of the British Empire was also shaken. This indictment brought together all the political parties and communal parties of India on one platform, created an atmosphere of national unity in the country and also played a major role in curbing communal politics.

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