

Paper Name: Indian National Movement

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UNIT – IV

SALT SATYAGRAHA

On March 12, 1930 Gandhiji along with group of 78 members from Sabarmathi Ashram, (Ahamedabad) through the villages of Gujarat for 240 miles. He and his followers travelled 24 days. Thousand of admirers cheered, Mahatma Gandhi on the way. Gandhiji's Salt Yathra generated a good deal of fervour and patriotic sentiments. On the 6th April 1930, after the morning prayer Mahatama Gandhi and his satyagrahis started the Civil Disobedience movement by picking salt lying on sea – shore. On 6th April 1930 Gandhi violated salt law at Dandi and issued the announcement to start the mass movement.

CIVIL DISOBEDIANCE MOVEMENT

Mahatma Gandhi started Civil Disobedience movement in 1930. He launched Dandi March on 12 March 1930 violation of salt law, abstention from attending the educational institution by the students

and the offices by the public servants, picketing of Liquor shops, bonfire of foreign cloths, non-payment of taxes etc., were the programmes of the movement. Gandhiji attended second Round Table Conference in London and returned India with a great disappointment. Hence he restarted CDM in January 1932. In this movement more than one lakh people were arrested.

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCES

First Round Table Conference

The First Round Table conference was held at London on 12th November 1930 without the representation of Indian National Congress. Ramsay Mc Donald, the then PM of England, presided over the conference. 89 delegates from British-India and 89 delegates from Princely States and 86 delegates from British were attended the conference. In fact nothing substantial came out of the conference.

Second Round Table conference.

Mahatma Gandhi participated in the Second Round Table Conference. It was held from 7th September to 1 December, 1931. In this conference Mahatma Gandhi insisted the communal problem could be solved only by the Indian Leaders in their own country without the intervention of foreign power that pursued the policy of "Divide and Rule". But the leaders of the communal organization adhered to their point of having reservation of seats in the legislative bodies. Gandhiji was lonely voice and sole representation for the national interest. He come back to India with great disgust.

Third Round Table conference

This conference scheduled from 17th November to 24 December 1932. The choice of Indian delegates was limited only to those persons who were loyal to the Government. The Labour party in England boycotted to attend the conference. Thus the Third Round Table Conference was a body of only “Yesmen” of the British Government. The Government of India Act 1935 was the product of the three reports of Rounded Table Conferences.

COMMUNAL AWARD

On 16th August 1932. British Prime Minister Ramsay Mc Donald announced reservation of seats in legislative bodies in India, in favour of Muslims, Christians, Anglo – Indians, Dalits, Europeans and Sikhs. It was known as Communal Award. This award was criticized for the following reasons:-

- a. The award was a mischievous attempt to divide and weaken the National Movement.
- b. It created the rift between Hindus and Muslims.
- c. It was a direct attack on National Solidarity.
- d. Europeans in India were only 0.1 percent of the total population but 10% reservation was given to them.

This award came as a great shock to Mahatma Gandhi. Hence on 20 September 1932, Gandhiji began his fasting unto death.

POONA PACT

The “Communal Award” came as a great shock to Mahatma Gandhi. He took fast unto death against the award. Rajendra Prasad and Sarojini Naidu initiated talks with B.R.Ambedkar. Both sides agreed on a formula to settlement which was called “Poona Pact”. According to this pact, Retain the joint electorate, 20% of seats were reserved for the Harijans in the Central Legislature. Adequate representation was given to Harijans in Local Bodies and Public Services and Financial aid was promised to promote literacy among the Harijans.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT – 1935

The Government of India Act 1935 is regarded as the second milestone in the path leading to responsible government. The act was lengthy and detailed document. The main salient features of the Act are as follows:-

1. It provided for the establishment of an All India Federation consisting of Provinces and princely states as units.
2. The act divide the powers between the centre and units in terms of three lists i.e., Federal List, Provincial List and Concurrent List, Residency Powers were given to viceroy
3. It abolished diarchy system in the provinces and introduced provincial Autonomy.
4. It provided for the adoption of dyarchy at the centre

5. It introduced bicameral system in six provinces (Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Assam and United Provinces)

ELECTION AND CONGRESS RULE

The Govt of India Act – 1935, paved way for conduct elections at provincial levels. In March 1937, INC decided to take part in elections. Congress ministries were formed in Bombay, Madras, Bihar, United provinces, Orissa and Central Provinces. Later congress ministry also formed in North – West Frontier Province. After formation of ministry in the above provinces, immediately the political prisoners were released. Restriction on press was removed. Powers of the police were curbed, several measures for the upliftment of the Harijans were taken. Extended the support to Khadi and other village industries. Much attention was paid for the development of school and collegiate education.

REFERENCE BOOKS

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