

CHAPTER:-13

Mahatma Gandhi and the Nationalist Movement.

Ques. 1 'Non Cooperation was a form of Protest'. Evaluate this statement.

Ans:- Gandhiji was one of the greatest personality of the world. His main principles were – Truth and Non Violence. Gandhiji decided to start non-cooperation as a unique form of protest freedom struggle against the British rule. He hoped that by coupling non cooperation with khilafat, Hindu and Muslims could collectively bring an end to colonial rule.

During NCM (Non Cooperation Movement) Students stopped going to school and colleges run by the British Government.

Lawyers refused to attend the court.

The working class went on strike in many towns and cities.

The country side was seething with discontent. Hill tribe in Northern Andhra violated by the forest laws. Farmers in Awadh did not pay taxes. These protest movements were sometime carried out in defence of the local nationalist leadership.

By the Analysis of the above mentioned facts it can be said that undoubtedly this was the first freedom struggle movement, in which most of Indian castes and communities participated to protest British rule.

Ques.2 How did Mahatma Gandhi transform the nature of the National movement?

Ans:- Gandhiji transformed the nature of the National movement by the following thoughts, methods ideology, working styles movements etc.

The main principles of his philosophy were

- i. Satyagrah

- ii. Non violence
- iii. Peace
- iv. True sympathy for the poorest.
- v. Empowerment of the lady.
- vi. Communal Harmony
- vii. Indian Rural areas and to think about interest of the people residing in the villages and to motivate the other people to think, to act and to inspire resourceful and influential high up of the society in favour of down trodden.
- viii. Opposing untouchability with his full vigor and strength.
- ix. To stress both equally and their purity of aim and means alike.
- x. To launch public welfare programme.
- xi. To stress importance of cottage Industry.
- xii. Charkha
- xiii. Spinning wheels
- xiv. Khadi etc
- xv. To oppose colour discrimination alike.

Gandhiji utilized south Africa as practical lab for his ideological and philosophical development. He raised his voice at full pitch their against wrong policies and injustice done by the government of South Africa. He utilize Satyagraha in South Africa also in several places in India.

When Gandhiji returned to motherland in 1915. In fact that time still Indian National congress was confined in only urban areas upto people of middle educated classes. He knew very well that its natural power rests with the rural people, labour, ordinary men and women and young boys and girls till all sections and people of Indian society would not join freedom struggle against the colonial British power then it would be very difficult to finish British authority from India.

Gandhiji said that British rule have rewarded India through out spreading Poverty, hunger, low quality of life ,illiteracy, superstitions and social disunity and disharmony.

Gandhiji opposed the owners of Indigo plantation of champaran. He also press the cotton textile mill owners to revise the minimum wage of the labourers.

Gandhiji was a true economic and social reformer. He advocated the use of charkha and khadi. He stressed the importance of cottage and very small industries.

Infact due to his efforts the face of Indian National Movement turns from palaces to hunts, from urban areas or cities towards villages where the real India resides. This was the greatest work of Gandhiji. This converted the shape of National movement into a mass movement.

Ques3:-‘The Quit India Movement was truly a mass movement’. Justify this statement.

Ans:- Due to the failure of the Cripps mission, Gandhiji decided to launch his third major movement against British rule. This was called Quit India Movement. This was to be a mass struggle on non violent lines under leadership of Gandhiji. But on the Next day of the approval of India Quit Movement resolution. Gandhi and other main congress leaders were arrested. But the younger activist organized demonstrations and strike in factories, schools and colleges in all parts of the country. Particularly active in the underground resistance were socialist members of the congress such as Jaya Prakash Narain and Ram Manohar Lohia, Aruna Asif Ali. In some areas such as Satara and Midnapur “Independent governments were proclaimed. The movement took the form of a violent