

HISTORY -Chapter – 17

THE FIRST WAR OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE (1857)

8) Write about Eruption of the Revolt and its spread

Ans:- (.....Contd)

When the British officers ordered the Indian soldiers to pull the safety catch with the help of their teeth, the soldiers rejected the command and revolted against their superiors. At this juncture, an Indian soldier named Mangal Pandey killed a British official. Subsequently, he was arrested, tried and hanged. Meerut was a strong military base of the British. When the British ordered the Indian soldiers to use the greased cartridges, the soldiers refused to carry out the order. The soldiers were imprisoned. As a result, there was a revolt in Meerut. Indian soldiers rushed into the prison and released the soldiers jailed there. This initiated seedling for the war of independence. Later, the group of soldiers went to Delhi from Meerut. They laid siege on the Red Fort and declared the aged Moghul king, Bahadur Shah II as the Emperor of India. Protesting soldiers from different parts of India reached Delhi. Consequently, the protest became serious. It spread like wild fire to Kanpur and Jhansi. In Kanpur, Nana Saheb rose in protest. Tatya Tope was his assistant. In Jhansi, a revolt took place under the leadership of Queen Laxmibai. When Kanpur fell into Jhansi Rani the hands of the British, Tatya Tope came to Jhansi to help the Queen. The heat of the revolt was felt in Lucknow too. Ultimately, Lucknow was taken over by the British. The war spread to the south of river Yamuna. As a result, the soldiers in Jhansi felt encouraged. Jhansi Rani Laxmibai who was enraged by the Doctrine of Lapse, declared war against the British. She took Gwalior under her control. When the battle took place again with the British, the Queen laid down her life. Even today, the queen occupies a proud position in the history of the independence struggle

9) Write the Reasons for failure of the 1857 revolt

Ans:- The First War of Independence of 1857 failed due to various reasons. The movement did not spread to the whole country. This struggle was intended to protect the interests of a few rather than getting freedom for the country. Instead of being an organized struggle, it erupted due to certain unexpected reasons. The unity among the British forces and lack of it among the Indian soldiers also led to the failure. There was no proper direction or proper leadership. In addition, there was a lack of

strategy, expertise among soldiers, effective leadership, discipline and direction. Many provincial kings, on account of their loyalty to the British, did not support the struggle. The people lost confidence in the soldiers due to their arson and looting.

10) What were the Effects of the 1857 revolt?

Ans : The freedom struggle put an end to the administration of the East India Company, and the administration was taken over by the Queen of England. The administrative responsibility was handed over to the Secretary of Indian Affairs in the British Parliament. In 1858, the Queen of England made a declaration. This declaration has been called India's 'Magna Carta'.

The following points were included in it:

- The agreements made by the East India Company with the kings were accepted.
- Ambitious expansion plans had to be given up
- A stable government had to be provided to Indians.
- There would be equality before law.
- The government would exhibit religious tolerance and not to interfere in religious matters of the country. The British realized that peaceful rule was not possible without support, trust and confidence of the Indians. This gives new route to Indian freedom movement. Indians understood the inevitability of finding alternative routes to obtain freedom from the British

10) ``The First War of Indian Independence brought various changes'' Explain

Ans:- The First War of Indian Independence brought various changes:

- (i) It ended the administration of the East India Company
- (ii) Responsibility of the Governance transferred to the crown. was
- (iii) The Administration was handed to the Secretary of State.
- (iv) Queen's Declaration in 1858 included various aspects.

These were:

- (a) Acceptance of the agreements of the Company.
- (b) End of expansionist policy.
- (c) Stable government for the Indians.
- (d) Equality under law.
- (e) Religious tolerance.
- (f) Seeking support of the Indians.
- (g) New route to the Indian Freedom Movement.
- (h) Alternative channels to pursue further struggle.
- (v) The first war of Indian independence also paved the path for future struggles

(Contd.....)