

.....

Second Phase of the Indian National Movement (Continued)

5

Partition of Bengal, Swadeshi and Boycott Movements

Exercises

Multiple Choice Questions

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (a) | 3. (c) | 4. (b) | 5. (b) |
| 6. (a) | 7. (d) | 8. (a) | 9. (b) | 10. (d) |
| 11. (a) | 12. (d) | 13. (a) | 14. (d) | 15. (b) |
| 16. (b) | 17. (d) | 18. (a) | | |

Short-Answer Questions

1. Why was Bengal partitioned in 1905 according to the British rulers?

Ans. According to the British rulers the province of Bengal was too big to be efficiently administered by a single provincial government. It was quite difficult for one Lt. Governor to administer it efficiently. Therefore, a scheme was prepared to divide the province of Bengal into two separate provinces.

2. Why was Bengal partitioned in 1905 according to the nationalist leaders?

Ans. According to the nationalist rulers Bengal was partitioned to cut the roots of nationalism since the Hindus and Muslims of Bengal were culturally and emotionally much united and they were taking active part in the National Movement.

3. Who was the chief architect of the Partition of Bengal?

Ans. Lord Curzon

4. When did the Partition of Bengal actually come into effect?

Ans. 16th October 1905.

5. How was 16 October, 1905 observed throughout Bengal?

Ans. The Partition of Bengal was enforced on 16th October 1905. It was called a day of national mourning. There was a general hartal. People fasted and went barefoot to take a bath in the Ganga. They were shouting *Bande Mataram* and singing patriotic songs. The Hindus and Muslims tied Rakhi on one another's wrists as a symbol of brotherhood.

6. When was the Partition of Bengal revoked?

Ans. The Partition of Bengal was revoked in 1911.

7. Give one effect of the Partition of Bengal on the National Movement.

Ans. Swadeshi and Boycott Movement was started.

8. State any two repressive policies of Lord Curzon that led to Assertive/Radical Nationalism in India.

Ans. (a) To bring Indian Universities under tighter control, he passed the Indian Universities Act of 1904.

(b) He partitioned Bengal under the pretext of administrative efficiency, to weaken the national movement.

9. What was the action taken by the Viceroy that sparked off the Swadeshi Movement?

Ans. The Swadeshi and Boycott Movements began in 1905 as a part of the agitation against the Partition of Bengal announced by the Viceroy Lord Curzon.

10. Give two reasons for starting the Swadeshi and the Boycott Movements.

Ans. (a) The Swadeshi and the Boycott Movements began as a part of the agitation against the Partition of Bengal.

(b) The Indian leaders felt that they could not produce any effect on the British Government by holding meetings and passing resolutions only Swadeshi and Boycott

movement could force the Government to annual partition, and it did.

11. What do you mean by the terms 'Swadeshi' and 'Boycott'?

Ans. 'Swadeshi' means things grown or manufactured in one's own country and 'Boycott' means giving up the use of foreign goods.

12. Name two political leaders who were arrested by the British Government for taking an active part in the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement.

Ans. Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh.

13. What two repressive measures were taken by the Government to suppress the Swadeshi and the Boycott Movement?

Ans. (a) The people and the local leaders were beaten mercilessly by the soldiers. Many of them were killed and suffered injuries.

(b) The students were fined, expelled, even beaten and flogged.

14. How did the Swadeshi and the Boycott Movements prove a boon for the indigenous industry?

Ans. The use of India-made goods replaced the foreign goods in Indian homes. It gave new life to Indian industries and more particularly to indigenous industry. The increased demands of Swadeshi goods led to the increase in production of indigenous goods, especially the handloom and handicrafts, match boxes, soaps and textiles.

15. How did the movement get a boost from the students?

Ans. The Swadeshi and the Boycott Movement created much enthusiasm among students. They boycotted the Government schools and colleges. They organised meetings and demonstrations, picketed the shops and burnt foreign goods. They waged a war against aggression and 'divide and rule' policy of the government. Before their courage and zeal the British grew pale.

16. How did women take part in this movement?

Ans. Such was the impact of the Swadeshi and Boycott

Movements that even women who were traditionally tied to their homes, jumped into action and marched shoulder to shoulder with men in processions, demonstrations, meetings, *Prabhat pheris*, picketing and bonfires.

17. Name two authors who wrote national literature after getting inspiration from the Swadeshi and the Boycott Movements.

Ans. Rabindra Nath Tagore and the Ravi Kant Sen.

18. How did this movement affect the Nationalist Movement?

Ans. The movement spread nationwide and people from all parts of India belonging to every caste and community and class participated in it. As a result of the movement, all Indians marched ahead with firm determination to see their motherland free from the British Rule.

19. How did the Swadeshi and the Boycott Movement hurt the British trade interests?

Ans. The English had come to India primarily as traders and with a view to strengthening their trade. But the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement badly hurt their trade interest. Not only did the demand of their goods decline rapidly but now they could not be sold easily in the open market because they began to be burnt publicly. There could be no great insult to a trading community like the British.

Structured Essay-Type Questions

1. There is much controversy regarding Lord Curzon's Partition of Bengal. In this context, answer the following :

- (a) Motives behind the partition of Bengal.
- (b) Resentment of the people against this measure.
- (c) Consequences of the partition of Bengal.

Ans. (a) The first and the main reason/motive, according to the British rulers, was given as administrative necessity. It was said that the province of Bengal was too big to be efficiently administered by a single provincial government.

The other and the real motive, according to the

nationalist leaders, was to curb the nationalist enthusiasm and demonstrate British strength.

The Hindus and Muslims of Bengal were culturally and emotionally much united and they were taking an active part in the National Movement. Such a thing was not to the liking of an imperialist Viceroy like Lord Curzon. He wanted to cut at the very roots of nationalism and the best way was to divide the people into Hindus and Muslims and then to rule safely. Thus they wanted to follow the policy of divide and rule and drive a wedge between Hindus and Muslims.

- (b) The people started the Swadeshi and the Boycott Movements in 1905 to counteract the partition of Bengal. 'Swadeshi' means things grown or manufactured in one's own country and 'Boycott' means giving up the use of foreign goods. In fact both these words are two sides of one and the same coin. In fact they are complementary and supplementary to each other. Without 'Swadeshi' there cannot be the 'Boycott' of foreign goods and without the 'Boycott' of foreign goods there cannot be 'Swadeshi'.
 - (c) Bengal was divided into two provinces – Eastern Bengal joined with Assam and Western Bengal joined with Bihar and Orissa. Eastern Bengal had a population of 31 million, dominated by Bengali Muslims. West Bengal had a population of 54 million, dominated by non-Bengali population. In both the provinces Bengali Hindus became a minority. The Bengalis considered it a big blow to their culture and literature.
2. The Swadeshi and Boycott Movement was an important landmark in the history of the National Movement in India. In this context, answer the following questions :
- (a) Reasons for starting the Swadeshi and the Boycott Movement.
 - (b) Leaders of the movement.
 - (c) Various measures adopted to popularise the Swadeshi goods.

Ans. (a) The people started the Swadeshi and the Boycott Movements in 1905 to counteract the partition of Bengal.

(b) Surendra Nath Banerjee, Aurobindo Ghosh, BC Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai, B.G. Tilak.

(c) The increased demand of Swadeshi goods led to the increase in production of indigenous goods, especially the handloom and handicrafts, match boxes, soaps and textiles. Swadeshi stores were set up where these goods were sold. Acharya PC Roy started the Bengal Chemical Swadeshi Store. Even the great poet Rabindra Nath Tagore helped in opening a Swadeshi Store.

3. Briefly describe the effect of the Swadeshi and Boycott Movements, with reference to :

(a) Encouragement to indigenous industries

(b) Encouraging the use of Swadeshi goods

(c) Enthusiasm among students and women

(d) Rise of National literature

Ans. (a) The use of India-made goods replaced the foreign goods in Indian homes. It gave new life to Indian industries and more particularly to indigenous industry. The increased demands of Swadeshi goods led to the increase in production of indigenous goods especially the handloom and handicrafts, match boxes, soaps and textiles.

(b) The use of India-made goods replaced the foreign goods in Indian homes. It gave new life to Indian industries and more particularly to the cottage industry. Gradually the foreign goods began to disappear from the market.

(c) The Swadeshi and the Boycott Movement created much enthusiasm among students. They contributed a lot to the movement. They boycotted the Government schools and colleges. They organised meetings and demonstrations, picketed the shops and burnt foreign

goods. They waged a war against aggression and tyranny. Before their courage and zeal the British grew pale.

Such was the impact of the Swadeshi and Boycott Movements that even women, who were traditionally tied to their homes, jumped into action and marched shoulder to shoulder with men in processions, demonstrations, meetings, *prabhat pheris*, picketing and bonfires.

- (d) The Swadeshi and Boycott Movement encouraged nationalism and patriotism. As a result, great Indian writers like R.N. Tagore, Ravi Kant Sen and Mukund Dass wrote new nationalist poetry and prose filled with idealism. Their writings filled the Indian people with a new zeal and inspired them to shed fear, to defy authority and to make matchless sacrifices for the sake of the freedom of their country.

4. With reference to the Surat Split of 1907, explain the following :

- (a) Issues on which the two wings of the Congress had difference
- (b) Exploitation of the situation by the British
- (c) Effect of the split on National Movement

Ans. (a) The annual session of the Congress was held at Surat in 1907. The Early Nationalists did not approve the resolutions passed in 1906 and were also not in favour of adopting assertive means. They wanted to undo what had happened at the Calcutta Session. The Assertive Nationalists were not prepared to allow them to do so. So a confrontation between them became inevitable. The list of subjects to be discussed did not include resolutions on Swaraj, Swadeshi, boycott and national education. When SN Banerjea got up to propose the name of Dr. Ras Behari Ghose for the presidentship, he was shouted down by the Assertive Nationalists. Tilak was refused permission to address the session. At this juncture, confusion prevailed in the pandal. There

were clashes between the two groups with sticks and shoes.

(b) British took the advantage of the Surat Split and exploited the situation to their advantage in the following ways:

- They adopted a policy of concession and repression wherein they gave favourable concessions to the Early Nationalists as well as the Muslim community in general.
- At the same time, they also repressed the Assertive Nationalists in order to curb the newly emerging brand of aggressive, radical nationalism.

(c) Early nationalists held their convention separately the next day and expelled the Assertive Nationalists from it. The Assertive Nationalists decided to carry on their struggle against the Government. They held their sway over the National Movement upto 1915.

5. The agitation against the Partition of Bengal gave birth to the Swadeshi and Boycott Movements which marked one of the turning points in the history of Indian Nationalism. With reference to the above, answer the following questions :

- (a) Explain the aims and programmes of the Swadeshi and the Boycott Movement.
- (b) What were the effects of this movement on Indian industries?

Ans. (a) The chief aims of this movement were to revive the popularity of the indigenous goods, to boycott foreign goods, to promote Indian industries and to provide employment to craftsmen.

The call for Boycott and Swadeshi was given at thousands of public meetings all over Bengal as well as in most of the major cities and towns in India. People were approached not to buy or use foreign goods. This movement found supporters in all classes of the society from princes and merchants to humble workers and even the *Sanyasis*. Associations of different classes of people sprang up. They organised

volunteers to advance the cause of Swadeshi and Boycott and to devise ways and means for setting up national educational institutions. Doctors, lawyers, teachers and workers refused to work for them. Mass meetings were held and oaths were taken to give up the purchase of foreign goods. Shops dealing with foreign goods were picketed. Foreign cloth, cigarettes and other articles were consigned to bonfires in the streets. Students and women took an active part in organising processions, picketing and bonfires. Large sums were collected to help these movements. Many textile mills, soap and match factories, national banks and insurance companies were set up to help the people.

- (b) The use of India-made goods replaced the foreign goods in Indian homes. It gave new life to Indian industries and more particularly to indigenous industry. The increased demands of Swadeshi goods led to the increase in production of indigenous goods especially the handloom and handicrafts, matchboxes, soaps and textiles.