PEASANT MOVEMENTS
IN U.P.
(1920-1950)
AN ABSTRACT
SUBMITTED FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE
OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN
HISTORY
H.N.B. GARHwal UNIVERSITY, SRINAGAR
(UTTARANCHAL)

Research Supervisor
Dr. S.L. Bhatt
READER & HEAD
Department of History
Govt. P.G. College, Kotdwara
Pt. L.M.S. Govt. P.G. College,
At Present :
Pt. L.M.S. Govt. P.G. College
Rishikesh (D.dun), Uttarakahl

Research Scholar :
Jitendra Singh Negi
C/o Sh. D.S. Negi, Pratap Colony,
Shivpur, Kotdwara (Garhwal),
Uttaranchal, Pin - 246149

2006
PEASANTS MOVEMENTS IN U.P.
(1920-50 A.D.)

Preface of the Research Study

In India the direct control of British administration started since the mid of 18th century. Indian financial importance and economic system had a vital contribution to the British and its capitalistic structure. Since India was an agricultural country so agriculture had a vital place in its economy.

During the British reign British imperialists had put emphasis on agricultural system and its profit. After consolidating the British Empire, Britishers introduced radical changes in old land revenue system. New Revenue system led to the end of the ownership among the people and gave birth to the new agrarian structure; ended the old land control system with which started to broad categories. In some parts of India zamindari and in other parts private ownership of the farmers. In U.P. new zamindari system formed a new agrarian social structure and new social classes.

Zamindars, talukdars, intermediaries and mahajans on the one hand constituted a prosperous and dominant class in rural society; on the other marginal farmers, land less labours formed another poor and deprived class as well. In the proposed research work the objective of the scholar is to study and analyse the peasant movements 1920-50 A.D.; assess contemporary congress attitude and policies, contribution of farmers in it, consequences of their struggle and to review the socio-economic agrarian structure. Prior to this research Dr. Kapil Kumar and Dr. D.N. Dhargare had examined the
peasants movement in terms of India but a separate study and analysis on Uttar Pradesh has yet to be done.

Contemporary Oudh (1920-50 A.D.) where people struggled against the British Empire and made success to get support of the Indian Masses against the grievances of the farmers. Decade 1920 is important because rural population, poor farmers under the curtain of peasant movement became vital part of national movements; organization and peasants movements started playing in important role in it. In the year 1920-22 A.D.; with the help of peasant organization and non co-operation movement, congress party awakened the masses in eastern Uttar Pradesh. All the activities of peasant movement and congress policies of the decade 1920 would also be evaluated in this research study.

The world wide great depression of 1930 led to the miserable conditions of farmers along with other sections of society. Meagre income on the one hand and imposition of high taxes, increased land revenue on the other hand to the sad plight of farmers and their discontent consequently paved way to the huge peasants movements particularly in Oudh; in eastern U.P. and in Lucknow, Rai Barelie, Barabanki, Pratapgarh, Unchahar became the central places of peasants agitations.

Peasants rose against the illegal exactions like Nazrana and Bedhakhali and mobilized themselves for their rights and Jawahar Lal Nehru gave leadership to the peasants in Uttar Pradesh. The period 1937 -39 was the high watermark of the peasant movement and activity under the congress provincial rule. Some agrarian acts and rules were passed but could not satisfy the aspirations of the farmers.
In the decade 1940 Kisan Sabhas took active part in the movement. Capitalist and industrial class also shared their views and activities in the peasant movement. In the present research work role of peasant movement in Uttar Pradesh is evaluated and its relevant nature with special reference to U.P. is studied; otherwise peasant movements were studied only in terms of India. So; peasant movements in U.P., its objectives, role and consequences were an important attempt in this regard.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Authenticity and reality of the present research is based on the role of important news papers peasant movement, peasant’s organization; and to prove the authenticity of oppressive policies of contemporary government; regional news papers and the archives of the district jails are viewed. National archives during (1920-50 A.D.), regional archives, news paper, public records museums, libraries, government proceedings and specially all the judiciais of united province of Agra and Oudh are the fundamental source for studying matters and facts.

Besides **collectorate record groups Agra, Allahabad, Ajamgarh, Rai Barelie and for non-government sources All India Congress Paper, All India Congress Committee supplementary papers, U.P. Congress Committee papers, J.L. Nehru Papers, Sampurnanand Papers, Purusotamadas Tondon papers and final report - Rai Barelie District, Agra district, femine enqury commission final report Delhi 1945**. Beside report on agriculture in the united province and Journals were the fundamentals to look into the matters and facts of study.

**AAJ** (Banaras), **BHARAT** (Allahabad), **ABHIUDYA** (Allahabad), **CHAND** (Allahabad), **KISANOPKARAK** (Pratapgarh), **THE LEADER**
(Allahabad), THE PIONEER (Allahabad) were the important News paper for learning. Among the secondary sources the following books were important to get the study material: - B.R. Mishra’s – Land Revenue Policy in the United Provinces Under British Rule, Banaras (1942); Peasants in Revolts : Tenants Land Lord Congress and Raj in Oudh 1886-1922, New Delhi, 1984 written by Kapil Kumar was very helpful.

Besides peasant congress and the struggle for freedom 1917-39, congress peasant’s relationship, and peasant perceptions of Gandhi and his programme were also be important in this regard. Along with these centenary history of the National Congress Volume 1-3 written by B.N. Pandey. Beden Powvel’s Land Revenue Administration problems of British India, 1892 were also important to analysis the topic.

-:- I M P O R T A N C E -:-

In this study chronological history of peasant movement in U.P. (1920-50) and its impact with reference to its future consequences are included as an attempt; for instance worsened peasant social structure prior to the abolition of zamindary system in 1950; and condition of farmers after abolition of zamindari system; role of peasant their constructive view point and impact on the country particularly in rural areas. Constructive role of Green Revolution, self dependency in food production, scientific research in agriculture, new technique, use of pesticides and manures all that which paved way to a miracle in the field of agriculture in present India.

By Virtue of peasants organizations and awakening, farmers freed themselves from the clutches of colonial economy; established the agriculture sector on an esteemed position among the developed countries and at the same time the contemporary governments also made their active
contribution for the upliftment of Indian farmers; in the other words government also took various measures to ensure the benefits of agrarian society. And agricultural development paved way to the industrial development of our country.

**In the First Chapter :-** In this chapter I have attempted an overview of the radical changes in Old Land Revenue System and the New Agrarian Structure and about all the main peasant movements which occurred in the era 1920-50. Besides, I have also mentioned the political behaviour of the congress party and the maximum impact of the agrarian revolts too.

**In the Second Chapter :-** This chapter contains a detailed study of all the peasant movements which occurred during 1920 -30. The EKA, the No-Rent Campaign and the miserable conditions of the farmers. Evolution of the Kisan Sabha Movement and attitude of the congress is also discussed.

**In the Third Chapter :-** This chapter is a sketch of the peasant movements occurred in Oudh and other places of U.P. like Allahabad, Raibarely, Pratapgarh. Congress led Non-Co-operation and its relation with Kisan Sabhas, Baba Ram Chandra’s contribution is also narrated.

**In the Fourth Chapter :-** Fourth chapter is the study of the congress policy and its strategy for the agrarian question.

**In the Fifth Chapter :-** In this chapter impact of the peasant movements on industrialist and on capitalists with special reference to modernization of the agriculture is depicted. Village and small scale industries are also discussed.
In the Sixth Chapter :- In this chapter I have examined the steps taken by the government keeping in view the upliftment of the Indian farmers, and all those measures to ensure the benefits of the agrarian society.

To conclude it may be remarked that peasant movements (1920 -50) in Uttar Pradesh had adopted a constructive vision towards the problems of peasants and their struggles. Laws were made against the autocratic feudal regimes and land lordship in the rural areas which proved a remarkable achievement eroded the powers of landed class and made India a leading country in the field of agricultural and industrial sector. This was the prime objective of this research study.