FREEDOM MOVEMENT FROM 1924 TO 1947

The period from 1924 to 27, in Indian Politics, was dominated by the Swarajists led by C.R. Das. They entered the legislatures and carried on non-cooperation movement from within. It was initially considered to be a wing of the Congress. But, in the later part of 1925, the Congress took over the whole programme of the work from within the Council as its own. C.R. Das's death in 1925 brought Gandhiji closer to the Swaraj party. The A.I.C.C. meeting held at Patna in September 1925 was eventful since the Congress introduced its four-anna membership as an alternative to the spinning franchise and decided to divert all its funds barring the Khaddar funds and all machinery for carrying on the necessary political work. Consequent upon this, the Swaraj party lost its independent identity. The Congress participated in the 1926 elections.1

In pursuance of the resolution of the Belgaum session (26-12-1924) of the Congress, the Andhra Committee was directed to collect 2,000 yards of self-spun yarn as the membership fee. This condition was resented by a few members desirous of enrolling themselves as members.

At the A.I.C.C. meeting of May, 1925, this self-spun yarn condition was made applicable only for the membership of the Congress and there cropped up other problems. The strength of the Provincial Congress Committee was 371 members. But, all the thirteen Andhra districts combined, could not elect more than 133 members to the Provincial Congress Committee.¹ Added to this were the rifts among Andhra leaders like Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya, A. Kaleswara Rao, Deshabhakta Konda Venkatappayya and Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya who could not get elected as members to the Provincial Congress Committee held in May, 1925. Bulusu Sambamurthy and B. Satyanarayana were not on cordial terms with Deshabhakta Konda Venkatappayya. This led to Konda Venkatappayya resigning from the Presidentship of A.P.C.C.² In the Godavari District Congress meeting held at Palivela in the same year, for the first time a resolution demanding Purna Swaraj was passed, at the instance of Bulusu Sambamurthy and his colleagues.³ This fact was taken up by the A.I.C.C. later on, the Madras session held in 1927. Swarajist leaders like Harisarvottama Rao, and A. Kaleswara Rao welcomed the resolution on Purna Swaraj. It was realised that the only weapon through which Swaraj could be attained was Civil Disobedience. In the Andhra Political Conference held at Machilipatnam, it was resolved to insist

¹ The Hindu, dated May 25, 1925.
² Ibid.
upon devising of ways and means for such a movement at the A.I.C.C. meeting to be held at Kanpur (26-12-1925) later. This resolution proposed by Harisarvottama Rao was seconded by A. Kaleswara Rao, the President of the Andhra Swaraj Party who wanted some sort of Civil Disobedience Movement to be carried out during the election campaign. By this, there would be not only a movement, but also an opportunity to nullify the Government activities from within and outside the Council. But this did not fructify. Being the period of election, concentration was more on the campaign for winning the election. The Swaraj Party gained prestige and power with Prakasam joining the party in June 1925. Opinions were, no doubt, divided between the Congress and the Swaraj party. On this count, Dr. Subramanyam, President of the East Godavari District Congress resigned as a protest against the attitude of the Congress party. Bulusu Sambamurti also resigned from the presidentship of the A.P.C.C. on the ground that he should support the Congress candidates in the forthcoming elections.

General elections were held in November 1926. The Congress had selected candidates much in advance and right from the middle of January, steps were taken to constitute

1. The Hindu, dated October 27, 1925.
2. ibid., dated October 7, 1925.
District, Taluk and Village Committees for the election propaganda. Another Committee was appointed to tour all the districts for this purpose. Meanwhile, Lord Birkenhead, the Secretary of State for India took a rigid stand rejecting the demand for responsible Government. Prakasam, the president of A.I.C.C. said in a manifesto that only two groups existed in the country, the bureaucracy and his supporters on the one side and the Congress and its supporters on the other. He appealed to the people to support the Congress candidates.¹

In the elections that followed in November, 1926, the Swarajy party won with a thumping majority over the Justice Party. It had been earlier resolved in the A.P.C.C. meeting that no office should be accepted under any circumstances, although, according to the Sabarmati pact, they would accept it, if necessary, power and responsibility were given to the legislators for effective discharge of their duties. Consequently, an independent ministry was formed with Dr. Subbarayan as the Chief Minister. C.V.S. Narasimha Rao in the capacity of the leader of the Swarajy Party accepted the office of the President of the Legislative Council.² Victory celebrations were held in Eluru, where a resolution recommending complete independence was passed.

2. ibid., p. 107.
Prakasam was against the Civil Disobedience Movement and so, resigned as President of the A.P.C.C. But, at the insistence of all leaders he withdrew his resignation.¹

At the A.P.C.C. meeting held in January, 1927, it was decided to demand the creation of a separate Andhra province and the legislature. Although B. Muniswamy Naidu brought in an amendment to exclude the Chittoor district from the new province to be created the demand was rejected.² Even at Chittoor, under the chairmanship of B. Munirathnam Naidu, the above demand was rejected and it was resolved that in case of formation of the new province, Madras and the surrounding districts including Chittoor were to be formed into a separate province with Madras as its headquarters.³ However, Annapurnayya, the Secretary to the Andhra Standing Committee toured the Ceded Districts urging people to accept a separate Andhra Province. At Chittoor, in a public meeting he requested Sri Doraiswamy Iyengar, the representative from Chittoor who was against the Andhra Province, to join the mainstream since the principle of redistribution of the provinces on linguistic basis had

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¹ The Hindu, dated December 6, 1926.
³ The Hindu, dated August 10, 1927.
been a settled fact. Several meetings were held in places like Madanapalli, Punganur and Vayalpadu.

Things moved swiftly. There were efforts to topple Dr. Subbarayan's ministry, but some did not like it. However, when finally a motion of no-confidence in the ministry was moved in the assembly, it was defeated since the officials who were almost nominated members, besides several independent members, supported the ministry in office. By this it became evident that disruptive tactics by any section of the legislators would not affect the day to day activities of the Government, because of the way the Act of 1919 had been formulated. Notably, 56 out of the 89 elected numbers had expressed no-confidence and Prakasam demanded the resignation of the Ministry, but in vain. Meanwhile, the Indian Statutory Commission was appointed. Srinivas Iyengar, the Congress President gave a call for boycotting the councils and also to boycott the Commission which came to be known as the Simon Commission. The A.P.C.C. also, in its meeting at Anantapur passed a resolution in favour of the boycott of the Commission.

1. ibid., dated September 8, 1927.
2. ibid., dated September 6, 1927.
4. ibid., p. 111.
Boycott of the Simon Commission turned out be one of the main activities of Andhra in 1928, as in other places. Public meetings were held in towns and important villages, thereby creating a sense of involvement among the masses who were now educated in this process. Simon Commission visited Guntur and Ongole. At the Vijayawada station a peon of the Municipality handed over a cover to Simon wherein was found the slogan "Go Back Simon". Excepting for a few minor disturbances due to the mishandling of the police, the boycott was a success. One individual was killed due to firing. Prakasam defied the police resistance to visit the scene. He wanted to see the dead body. "Shoot me if you want," he cried. The police had to allow him. His bravery earned for him the title 'Andhra Kesari'. Simon Commission finally recommended the formation of Orissa, and Sind Provinces (May 1930); but Andhra did not figure at all in their reports.

Gandhiji's tour for a period of six weeks from April to May 21 impressed and inspired the people who were now decided about fighting out the British. He not only visited Cuddapah, Chittoor and Anantapur, but also a number of small villages which were interior. In his speeches he stressed

2. ibid.
on the use of Khaddar and prohibition, removal of untouchability and upliftment of women besides Hindu-Muslim unity.

In the Chittoor district, he came to Tirupati on May 15 1929, from where he proceeded to Chittoor and then to Madanapalli. In these places he laid emphasis on the philosophy of Khaddar and collected amounts for the Khaddar Fund. In the Anantapur district he visited Nagireddipalli on the way to Kadiri. He went to Dharmavaram via Kutagulu, Mudigubba and Dampetla. At Anantapur, the Municipal Chairman, Amiruddin Sahib, organised a meeting which was addressed by Gandhiji who spoke on Khaddar, untouchability and prohibition of drinking. Ganta Doonappa made a liberal donation of Rs. 1116/- for the Khaddar Fund and, the public of Anantapur also presented Rs. 1015-40 to this Fund. Gandhiji visited Tadpatri also. In the Cuddapah District from 17th May 1929 he travelled through Kondapuram, Mangapatnam, Maredipalli, Muddanur, Chilamakuru, Nirjeevi and Eraguntla to Proddatur accompanied by Koti Reddy. In all these tours the major theme of Gandhiji's speeches centred round boycott of foreign goods and Hindu-Muslim unity. He invariably collected donations

2. ibid., p. 522.
3. ibid.,
4. ibid., p. 534.
For the Khaddar Fund and in this tour of Andhra Province he collected Rs.2,70,000. His inspiring speeches fostered a spirit of nationalism among the people. A large number of people joined the Freedom Movement and were prepared to sacrifice everything for the movement. His emphasis on Hindu-Muslim unity might not have been relevant to the situation in Andhra and more so in Rayalaseema; but that was a theme on which he harped. This concept of Hindu-Muslim unity was more relevant in the North where there were communal disturbances and if further helped in promoting the movement.

November, 1929 was the month of general elections for the legislature. Once again, there were differences of opinion, within the party on the question of participation in the elections to the councils. The A.I.C.C. earlier resolution advocating boycott of Council was no longer valid. The President of the A.I.C.C. has to cast his vote indicating that the opinion of the committee was equally divided. However, on the question of acceptance of offices, there was unanimity.

In Andhra Madduri Annapurnayya, editor of the Congress and a prominent member of the Independence League was arrested

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on July 15, 1929. He was the leader of the youth movement and had published many articles in commemoration of Alluri Sitarama Raju who was to him the real founder leader of the youth movement in Andhra. By arresting him, the Government tried to suppress the youth movement in Andhra. During this time, public opinion was deeply stirred by the self-immolation of Jatindranath Das who agitated for better facilities in the jails. Meetings were held at different places to pay homage to the deceased. Many articles were also published in leading Telugu newspapers and in Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya's English weekly Janmabhumi.¹

In Vijayawada, under the leadership of N.V.L. Narasimha Rao, a resolution was passed by the Andhra Provincial Conference recommending the Lahore Congress resolution demanding complete Independence. It was under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru, on the 29th December, 1929, that the historic resolution of demand for Purna Swaraj was passed.²

In Andhra, this resolution had its own impact. After the Lahore Congress session, the delegates from Andhra headed by K. Venkatappayya called upon Gandhiji and sought guidelines for future course of action. He recommended the Satyagraha

¹ ibid., p. 131.
² ibid.,
movement. In several places in Andhra meetings were organised and processions were conducted to celebrate Independence Day. The tricolour of the National Flag was hoisted, on this day, at Tirupati under the presidency of Sreenivasulu Chetty, and at Madanapalli and Chittoor under the presidency of C. Doraiswamy Iyyengar. The Independence Day Celebrations were also held at Kadiri, Tadpatri, Penukonda, Guntakal and Gooty. Independence Day Celebrations were held with great enthusiasm on the part of the people, who were ready to sacrifice everything in the cause of the nation. Barring Prakasam all others resigned from the Legislature. He contested for the Assembly membership as an independent and got elected un-opposed. But, he too, later on, resigned. As a part of this agitation, the people boycotted the Governor when he toured the Madras Province, specially in the districts of East Godavari and West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur. As an act of repression in some places, the Government arrested certain number of people who were demonstrating against the visit of the Governor. Even the students joined the agitation, as could be seen from the fact that the

pupils of the Hindu High School of Guntur abstained from the foundation function of that school, to be held with the Governor as the chief guest.\(^1\) The Rayalaseema members like K. Koti Reddy of Cuddapah\(^2\) and G. Harisarvottama Rao of Kurnool\(^3\) were opposed to the decision of boycotting of Councils, but disciplined as they were, they submitted their resignations to the Legislature. They also resigned their membership from the party. But these resignations were only temporary and were withdrawn soon.

The year 1930 saw the commencement of Salt Satyagraha with Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March, in March, 1930. Among the 78 followers selected by Gandhi for his Dandi March figured Yerni Subramanyam,\(^4\) an Andhra. Konda Venkatappayya who had been to Jambusar to seek advice from Gandhi, sent a telegram to the leaders of Andhra to start Civil Disobedience Movement from the 1st of April 1930 and not earlier. He had been appointed Dictator for the whole Province. Each District Committee was constituted with a Dictator and a War Council to advice him. There were camps, where volunteers were recruited and trained as a part of education, to participate in Gandhi’s constructive programme.\(^5\)

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1. The Hindu, dated February 11, 1930.
3. Ibid., dated March 18, 1930.
In Rayalaseema, Bellary was the camp for the entire region besides camps at Nandyal and Dharmavaram. Kalluri Subba Rao, I. Sadasivam, K. Subramanyam, V.C. Sastry, M. Anantasayanam Iyyengar, Srinivasachary and Swami Narayanananda led the movement in Rayalaseema. But Rayalaseema being far from the coastal region, obviously, salt could not be prepared on the sea-shore. But, salt laws were violated by preparing contraband salt from salt-clay (candimatti) and distributed in pockets at various places. Kalluri Subba Rao, P. Ramacharlu, I. Sadasivan were the prominent leaders in Anantapur district.

Mahatma Gandhi's arrest in May, 1930, resulted in repression all over India, and further intensification of the movement. In several places in Rayalaseema, hartal was observed and processions were held. At Tadipatri, a Bench Magistrate and a Vice-president of the Gooty Taluk Board resigned from their posts in protest against the government's oppressive policy. Protest meetings were held at Anantapur, Dharmavaram, Guntakal, Timmancharla, Singanamala and few other places and lectures were delivered on prohibition, Khaddar and police excesses. At Rajampet, a decision was taken to popularise Khaddar and boycott foreign goods. At Kalahasti, the local high school students boycotted their annual examinations and L. Subbaiah and Polaiah two members of the local Municipal

1. District Magistrate Accounts of the Movement in their respective districts – Anantapur District 1930-32.
2. ibid.
Council resigned their seats. The Rayalaseema Political Conference held at Vontimitta in Cuddapah district under the presidency of Kalluri Subba Rao on 12th April 1930, passed a resolution forming a sub-committee with Parasurama Rao of Nandaluru, Kalluri Subba Rao of Penukonda, K. Subramanyam of Cuddapah, O. Subramanyam of Nandyal and M. Srinivasa- charlu of Tirupati to encourage salt satyagraha and picketing liquor shops, shops selling foreign goods, and promotion of Khaddar and swadeshi goods. The violation of salt laws was seen even in Cuddapah district. (A certain) Sangam Reddy of Jammalamadugu prepared salt from salt-clay and sent it to the Sub-Inspector of Police. Likewise, in Kamalapuram taluk, under the leadership of Narayana Reddy and Timmayya contraband salt was prepared. In Tirupati, S. Krishnamoorthy a volunteer, brought a pot of salt water on 13th May, 1930 and broke the salt law by preparing salt.

The members of the Committee toured in several places to propagate this aspect of the national movement. Leaders like Kalluri Subba Rao intensified the struggle in Anantapur by organising demonstrations throughout the district.

1. Andhra Patrika, dated May 7, 1930.
2. The Hindu, dated April 13, 1930.
3. Andhra Patrika, dated April 28, 1930.
4. ibid.,
5. District Magistrate Accounts of the Movement in their respective District, Chittoor District 1930-31.
the 25th and 26th April, 1930, meetings were organised by the local Congress party in Anantapur wherein the leaders like P. Ramacharlu, Ramakrishnacharlu, Ramachandra Rao participated and spoke. Government Reddy came forward with a promise to donate Rs.14,000/- for building an ashram in Anantapur. The Chittoor District Conference was held at Tiruttani on 1st May 1930 under the presidency of V.K.S. Gopalacharlu and resolutions were passed to picket toddy and liquor shops, boycott foreign goods and promote Khaddar. A similar meeting was held in Puttur on 5th May, 1930.

The meeting of the Working Committee of the Congress held in May and June 1930, recommended the continuation of Civil Disobedience movement, boycott of foreign cloth, inauguration of No-tax campaign, breach of salt laws, boycott of British banking, insurance, shipping and other economic institutions. In Rayalaseema, there was active response to the call. The intensity of the campaigns brought political awakening in the region. Interestingly, despite Government warning, the local bodies like the District Boards of Cuddapah and Anantapur also got themselves involved in this movement and passed sympathetic resolutions towards it.

1. The Andhra Patrika, dated May 1, 1930.
2. The Hindu, dated April 27, 1930.
4. ibid., dated May 9, 1930.
The sale of liquor suffered in several rural areas. The villagers of Palagiri in Kamalapuram taluk gave up taking liquor and started wearing Khaddar. Khaddar became more popular. The cloth merchants now agreed to sell only Indian goods. Four Khaddar shops were opened in Jammalamadugu. These campaigns received adequate support from the Press also. The *Sri Sadhana Patrika*, for example, said that wearing of Khaddar was a beginning of the wider movement of boycotting all foreign goods. It advocated government servants also to wear Khaddar. When the students of the Ceded Districts College started wearing Khaddar and Gandhi caps as a symbol of one's sympathy with the national movement, the Principal sent a circular against it. *Sri Sadhana Patrika* voiced its objection to that circular and upheld the students' participation in politics as was the case in Oxford, Cambridge, Germany and China during the war time. The students came out of the classes in defiance of the Principal's circular. G. Harisarvottama Rao also criticised the Principal for preventing the students from wearing Gandhi cap.

In the country, the government took repressive measures in an effort to curb the movement. According to an estimation

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2. *ibid.*, dated November 26, 1930.
of the All India Congress Working Committee (A.I.C.W.C.) 75,000 innocent satyagrahis were arrested. The Madras provincial government declared the A.I.C.C. and the District Taluk and Village Congress Committees as unlawful associations. Section 144 was promulgated at Chandragiri to disturb the Congress meeting. By this the movement further gained momentum. The Government started refusing water supply to lands and even granting of land, as a part of countering the propaganda. In Penukonda taluk, the lands of the depressed people were seized. Kesava Pillai brought all these acts to the notice of the Collector. But, the result was imprisonment of leaders like K. Subba Rao, I. Sadasivan and Venkatanarayana.

The Civil Disobedience Movement came to an end with the conclusion of Gandhi-Irwin pact on 5th March, 1931. The Congress agreed to participate in the second Round Table Conference on the constitutional question. The Government, in its turn, agreed to release all political prisoners and remove the ban on all the associations. They also permitted for conducting peaceful picketing of liquor shops and shops selling foreign clothes, although they were not willing to withdraw salt laws.

4. ibid., dated May 15, 1930.
However, they could be prepared for personal consumption and not trading. As a result of the pact, all political leaders including the Rayalaseema leaders were also released.

After this the Congress Volunteers engaged themselves mainly in conducting public meetings and picketing foreign cloth and liquor shops. Unfortunately, the Government did not stick to its promises. For fear that people would disregard the Crown, the Collector of Chittoor issued prohibitory orders to disturb the Congress meeting to be held on 26th August, 1931 at different places like Tirupati, Tirumala, Puttur, Kuppam, Chittoor and Kalahasti. In Kurnool, in the first week of October 1931, Swami Narayananda with his followers carried a peaceful picketing at the liquor shops and infront of brothels. The Collector promulgated Section 144 Cr.P.C. to prevent picketing. On 17th October, 1931, Narayana-nda and his followers defied the orders and several persons were arrested including Swami Narayananda and latter was released. Similar picketing incidents occurred at Kuppam and Puttur in Chittoor district, Cuddapah and Anantapur districts.

3. The Hindu, dated December 16, 1937.
Gandhiji returned empty handed from London, after the Second Round Table Conference, on 28th December, 1931. During this time, the Conservative Government came into power in England and Lord Wellington became the Viceroy of India. The Gandhi-Irwin pact was thrown to the winds. Gandhiji's attempt to meet Viceroy Lord Wellington and discuss the issues was futile. The A.I.C.C. meeting held in Bombay, from December 29th, 1931 to 31st of January, 1932 decided to resume Civil Disobedience Movement including non-payment of taxes. Thus started the second phase of the Civil Disobedience Movement on 4th January, 1932. The programme of the movement was confined to the picketting of liquor shops and foreign cloth and also violation of salt laws and disobeying of unjust orders of the Government besides the no-tax campaign.

The Government passed a number of ordinances to suppress the movement and filled the jails with political leaders and also with agitators. In Andhra, dictators were named for several districts and the provincial Government banned all District and Taluk Committees. All important leaders in Andhra including Konda Venkatappayya and Gollapudi Sitarama Sastry were prevented from participating in the Civil Disobedience movement. In Rayalaseema, Kesava Pillai condemned the arrest

2. ibid., pp. 516-517.
of Gandhiji and other leaders. Bandh and hartals were observed in several places like Guntakal, Adoni, Kuppam, Nandyal, in Anantapur, Chittoor and Kurnool districts respectively. The leaders like Kalluri Subbarao, Sadasivam and P. Ramacharlu were imprisoned and sent to jail. Several individuals sacrificed a great deal by participating in this movement.

The Declaration of the Communal Award on 17th August, 1932 by the British premier, Ramsay Macdonald, was nothing but a part of the policy of Divide and Rule, Gandhiji commenced his historic fast unto death in September 20, 1932. Again the Movement intensified. The Congress leaders carried on propaganda against the Communal Award and in favour of joint electorate. In Andhra, Unnava Lakshminarayana undertook sympathetic fast. The students of the Andhra University also observed the sympathetic fast. The next step in the Movement was the Poona Pact concluded on September 24, 1932, thanks to the initiation taken by Dr. Ambedkar. Consequently, joint

5. Ibid., dated September 22, 1932.
electorate system was agreed upon and 40 seats were reserved for Harijans in Provincial Legislature. Then, Gandhiji broke his fast on 26th September, 1932. Gandhiji took up the cause of Harijan upliftment. There was a decline of tempo in the movement and later the mass Civil Disobedience Movement was given up in July, 1933. The A.I.C.C. agreed upon the Council entry programme on 20th May, 1934.

In the above movements, the people of Rayalaseema districts took as much interest as the people elsewhere. The press and the educational institutions also played predominant roles in this movement. The region remained economically and educationally backward.

The Council-entry programme was welcomed by the A.P.P.C. held at Bezawada on February, 1934, when the Andhra Swarajya party was formed and the members decided to enter the councils and agitate within the Council for a separate linguistic province. In the election of November, 1934, K. Nageswara Rao, V.V. Giri, N.G. Ranga and M. Ananthasayanam Iyengar were elected for Central Legislative Assembly.

Gandhiji toured in Andhra on December, 1933, but he did not

2. ibid., p. 75.
3. The Hindu, dated December 4, 1934.
visit Rayalaseema region. According to the Act of 1935, elections were to be held in late 1936 or early 1937.

It was in this period that several independent organisations working for the socio-economic upliftment came into existence. One Ryots' School of Economics was started by N.G. Ranga at Nidubrole, to agitate against the Zamindari system. Another organisation that could be noted is the Congress Socialist Party which came into existence in Andhra under the leadership of N.G. Ranga, as a branch of the All India Socialist party. J.P. Narayan, the Organising Secretary of the All India Socialist party toured Andhra and addressed meetings at several places. One of his objectives was to convert the Congress ideology into Socialism and also to work against the Zamindari system. In Rayalaseema, Vidwan Viswam and T. Nagi Reddy popularised these ideals through the publication of Navya Sahityamala at Anantapur.

Congress got a thumping victory in 1937 elections but the right and left wings had differences on the question of

2. ibid., dated 19-1-1935 and 4-12-1935.
4. Government Fortnightly Reports, dated 4-7-1934.
acceptance of office because, the Act of 1935 provided power to Governor to interfere in the functioning of the Government. ¹ Thanks to Gandhiji's interference, it was finally resolved to accept office on condition that the Governor (of the provincial Government) would not interfere. ² Finally, the Congress came to power in the Madras Presidency with Rajaji as the Chief Minister, and T. Prakasam, V.V. Giri and B. Gopal Reddy as Members of the Cabinet from Andhra. ³ There was no representation for Rayalaseema which was a cause of resentment among the leaders of Rayalaseema. Within two years the Congress ministry resigned as a protest against the British dragging India into the Second World War without consulting the Congress. During its tenure, the Congress ministry had introduced several welfare schemes and also, had redressed the grievances of such of these people who had suffered as a result of the repressive policy of the earlier Government.

The declaration of the Second World War in 1939, changed the cause of the national movement in India. The War broke out in Europe on September 1, 1939 and two days later, England declared war against Germany. Viceroy Lord Linlithgow's declaration that India was also at war with Germany

² ibid., p. 101.
³ ibid., pp. 97-98.
and his appeal for support was not taken in its stride by the A.I.C.C. The Congress ministries in the province found it to be humiliating. The country could not be involved in a war with which it had no concern and, if it were to participate at all, it was on condition that "India must be declared an Independent nation." Lord Linlithgow could not promise this. Consequently, the Congress ministries came out of office. It took a long time for the Congress to realise that only irresistible pressure could bring freedom and hence in its annual session of the Congress (March 19, 1940) Gandhiji was empowered to launch the Individual Satyagraha Movement.¹

On the other hand, as a leader of the Forward Bloc, Subhash Chandra Bose launched a campaign of Civil Disobedience Movement. The members of the Forward Bloc were arrested in April, 1940.² In the Poona session of the A.I.C.C. (July, 1940) the Congress again made an offer to the British that it would lend support in the war, provided Britain in turn declare complete independence and set up a provisional national government at the centre commanding the confidence of all the elected members of the legislature and, responsible government in the province. The Viceroy, as a

¹. The Hindu, dated August 4, 1940.
². Majumdar, R.C: op.cit., Vol. III, pp. 496-497.
government representative, made the August offer promising Dominion Status for India after the war. It was also proposed to expand the Viceroy's Executive Council to give berth to more Indians. But this was not acceptable. The August Offer was rejected by the Congress.¹

In the meanwhile, in accordance with Gandhiji's instructions after the Ramgarh session, several Congress Committees converted themselves into Satyagraha Committees in the country. The District Congress Committees of Vishakhapatnam, East Godavari, and Cuddapah districts converted themselves into Satyagraha Committees.

The All India Congress Committee which met in Bombay on September, 15-16 requested Gandhiji to take the leadership. This was enthusiastically welcomed by the Andhra Congressmen in Andhra. Gandhiji's efforts to meet the Viceroy on the 27th and 30th of September, 1940 were in vain.² Under such circumstances, the Congress Committee met on October 11, 1940 and decided to start individual civil disobedience. The individual civil disobedience campaign began with Vinoba Bhave's speech on October 17, 1940, protesting against the dragging of India into War against

² Ibid., p. 131.
its will. Thus, the individual satyagraha movement started on 17th October, 1940 and continued up to December, 1941.

To begin with, in this phase, only prominent leaders were selected for offering Satyagraha. The second phase of the movement commenced from 17th November and went on till January 5, 1941. The satyagrahis were selected from various bodies such as the Congress Working Committee, the All India Congress Committee and the central and provincial Legislatures. Gandhiji called these satyagrahis as "representative satyagrahis." In view of the Christmas festival, the second phase was suspended from December 25, 1940 to January 4, 1941. The third phase commenced on January 5, 1941 when the Provincial Congress Committees were empowered to select the satyagrahis. Finally from April 1941, even "Four Anna" members of the Congress were permitted to enrol as satyagrahis. This resulted in a sharp rise in their number.¹

Before launching the Satyagraha movement Gandhiji gave instructions that only those who could spin and who took interest in the constructive programme work should be included

in the lists of satyagrahis. After the selection, the particular satyagrahi gave notice to the concerned Magistrate, or Police authority, about his intention to offer satyagraha at a particular place and time. On that day the Satyagrahi uttered these words "It is wrong to help the British War efforts with men or money. The only worthy effort is to resist all war with non violence."¹

Gandhiji chose Acharya Vinoba Bhave as the first satyagrahi to offer individual satyagraha at Palnar Village near Wardha on 17th October, 1940. He was arrested on 21st October and sentenced to three months' imprisonment.² He was followed by Jawaharlal Nehru and others. Thus, the first phase of the movement ended on 17th November, 1940.

The Rayalaseema people welcomed the resumption of the Civil Disobedience Movement. The Rayalaseema Satyagraha Conference was held in Anantapur in the month of October, 1940 under the presidency of B. Pattabā Sitaramaiah. About 4,000 members from Rayalaseema attended the Conference. All of them unanimously approved Gandhiji's methods of selection of satyagrahis and also discussed the further plan of the satyagrahis.³ The Conference signified the enthusiasm of the Rayalaseema people towards the attainment of freedom.

In the second phase of the Satyagraha all the important leaders of Andhra offered Satyagraha in the month of November, 1940 and were sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment under the Defence of India rules. Among them were T. Prakasam, Kaleswara Rao, Pattabhi Sitaramaiah, Kalluri Subba Rao, A. Govindachari, Maganti Bapineedu, G. Venkata Reddy and Sankar Reddy. In Andhra 882 members were convicted and Rs.76,533/- collected as fines from the satyagrahis.

In the Kurnool district, S. Nagappa, M.L.A., a Harijan, was the first satyagrahi in the district who offered satyagraha in front of the Kurnool District Congress Committee's office by shouting anti-war slogans. He was arrested and convicted to one year's imprisonment and fined Rs.250/- on 27th November 1940.

During the second phase, the satyagrahis offered satyagraha in the midst of the crowded public. It had a lot of impact on the people and gained considerable popularity among the rural area. Ramkrishna Raju, M.L.A., and President of the Chittoor District Congress Committee offered satyagraha at Karvetinagar on 1st December, 1940. Koti Reddy who was Vice-president of the A.P.C.C. took part in the

1. Fortnightly Report, dated 2-12-1940 and 4-1-1941.
2. Andhra Patrika, dated November 28, 1940.
3. The Hindu, dated November 28, 1940.
4. ibid., dated December 4, 1940.
satyagraha at B. Peddapasupala village in Jammalamadugu taluk on 7th December, 1940, in the presence of a huge public gathering.\(^1\) Anantasayanam Iyyengar, M.L.A., (Central) raised anti-war slogans and offered satyagraha at Tirupati on December 9th, 1940 before the public.\(^2\) The individual satyagraha created a stirring effect on the public and this consequently led to the increase of the satyagrahis in the third and fourth phase of the struggle.

During this time the press highlighted the effect of the war, Sri Sadhana Patrika criticised the British on the war issue. P. Ramacharlu, Vidwan Viswam and T. Nagi Reddy jointly published a pamphlet on "Economic Consequences of the War" and distributed among the public. The Government convicted the last two of them and imprisoned them for one year. But, P. Ramacharlu was released due to lack of evidence about the involvement in the matter.\(^3\)

During the second phase, all prominent leaders like K. Varadachari, S. Nagappa, N. Sanjeeva Reddy, Y. Ramachandrayya, and Anantasayanam Iyyengar were jailed. The arrest of these leaders made the common man take active part in the national movement.

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1. ibid., dated December 9, 1940.
2. ibid., dated December 12, 1940.
3. Andhra Patrika, dated October 10, 1940.
The third phase of the Individual Satyagraha Movement commenced on 5th January, 1941. The Provincial Committee prepared lists of satyagrahis on the basis of their spinning ability and their active participation in the constructive programmes. From the 5th January to the 1st of April, 1941 a good number of satyagrahis offered satyagraha at different places in the province. The satyagrahis like Ramananda Gowd, Vasupalappa, Revappa, Siddappa, Mrs. Subba Rathnama, Satyanarayana Chetty, Y. Ramayya, B.V. Subba Reddy, Subbaraya Gupta were some of those that offered satyagraha in different places in Andhra.

During the fourth phase, the 'four anna' members of the Congress were enrolled as satyagrahis resulting in an increase of satyagrahis. Even in Andhra, the Provincial Congress prepared a long list of satyagrahis. Both Hindus and Muslims figured in this list. In Rayalaseema, many satyagrahis offered satyagraha at a number of places and courted arrests. In Anantapur district, G. Baba Sahib of Uravakonda offered Satyagraha on 11-1-1941 and was sentenced for 7 months' imprisonment. S. Peer Sahib offered satyagraha at Gopindevarapalli in Penukonda taluk on 25-1-1941 and convicted to 3 months' imprisonment. S. Mohammed Ghouse of Kadiri offered satyagraha at Talupala in Kadiri taluk and

2. ibid., p. 10.
also Khaja Mohiddin of Kadiri raised anti-war slogans, but they were not arrested. More noteworthy was the offer of satyagraha by a Muslim lady, M. Rabiya Bee, much against the wishes of the Muslim community. It took place near the Arts College grounds at Anantapur on 4-3-1941; but she was not arrested. M. Khaja Hussain offered satyagraha at Pulakunta in Anantapur taluk on 25-2-1941.

In Cuddapah district, Hindus as well as Muslims actively participated in this movement. S. Nabi Rasool offered satyagraha at Pydipalem on 13-1-1941 and was imprisoned for 3 months. Another person, Hussain Sahib offered satyagraha in the same place on 24-2-1941 and was sentenced to 2 months' imprisonment. In Kurnool district Shamsher Baig offered satyagraha at Panyam on 4-1-1941 and sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment. In Chittoor district, Gangadharam Pillai offered satyagraha on 1st May, 1941 at Chittoor and also R. Chinna Reddy of Punganur on the same day. Thus, the public of Rayalaseema participated in the Individual Satyagraha very enthusiastically. The number of satyagrahis convicted in the fourth phase was more than 20,000.

2. The Hindu, dated March 5, 1941.
3. Anantapur District Congress Committee reports, 1941.
5. ibid., p. 84.
6. ibid., p. 35.
7. G.O.No.3058, Public (General) 1942, Department, Government of Madras, dated 26-9-1942.
The Government changed its policies due to the worsening of the war situation. In order to win over the Indians, the British Government released all the satyagrahis in the month of December, 1941.

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

The Quit India Movement rose as a wave to engulf the British power, as a revolution to overthrow the British and free India from the alien rule. People of all sections and parties jumped into the arena now. The sudden and swift changes in the war, of Germany's attack on Russia and Japan's seizure of Singapore, the Andamans and Rangoon, brought war directly to the Indian shore. U.S.A. now felt that without India's and Indian's support the war would be lost. This they could do only by appeasing the Indians. To bring about a reconciliation between the Congress and the British authorities, the American President, F.D. Roosevelt, exercised greater pressure on Britain. This resulted in the British Prime Minister, Churchill's announcement in the House of Commons on 11th March, 1942 to send Sir Stafford Cripps to India to carry negotiations with the Congress and other political organisations. Cripps' proposals, like conferring

Dominion Status on India after the war, framing the constitution through a Constituent Assembly comprising of elected representatives from Provinces and native states, freedom to the Provinces or States to join or remain aloof from the Indian Union were unacceptable to the Congress.¹

Thus Cripps' proposals, were rejected by almost all the political parties, Gandhiji called it a 'post-dated Cheque.' The failure of the Cripps Mission plunged the country in despondency and anger. The Quit India Movement was the outcome of the failure of the Cripps Mission. In Andhra, the coastal people faced war threat and on April 6th, Visakapatnam and Kakinada were bombed by Japan.² The Japanese invasion appeared imminent. Doubts were expressed about Britain's capability to defend the country. At this juncture, the All India Congress Committee met at Allahabad from April 29th to May 2nd and urged for independence. After this session, Gandhiji carried on his propaganda in favour of "Quit India" and started writing articles in the Harijan, in which he asked the British to withdraw from India. The articles had a great impact on congressmen. The Wardha resolution of the A.I.C.C. (July, 1942) called upon Britain to transfer power to the Indians immediately.

The All India Congress Committee met in Bombay and passed the 'Quit India' resolution on 8th August and also approved Gandhiji's leadership. Soon after this, Gandhiji exhorted the people to participate in the movement, urged the people to sink all differences of religion and work unitedly. He gave a call for "Do or Die" for getting freedom. Gandhiji and all the members of the A.I.C.C. were arrested on the night of 8th August itself. The news of Gandhiji's arrest and also of other national leaders spread like wild fire to the nook and corner of the country. The public reacted immediately and spontaneously and demonstrations were organised throughout the country.

The Government banned all Congress Committees and organisations in the country and arrested all important leaders. The arrests of leaders provoked an immediate reaction among the public. At that time, the Congress did not propose any programme. This resulted in unabated violence and destruction in the country throughout the year. People also attacked the communication systems like the post offices, telegraph and telephone offices and the network of railways.

In Andhra, the A.P.C.C. welcomed the Quit India resolution. It also issued a confidential circular dated 29th July, 1942.

drafted by Kala Venkat Rao, the General Secretary. The British Government criticised the circular and suspected that the Congress had planned violent rebellion. In fact, it was a confidential circular giving details of the programme to defy prohibitory orders, to give up legal practice by lawyers, students to boycott colleges and schools and to cut off the toddy trees and to destroy communication systems. But, it also warned people not to indulge in violence and to wait for instructions from Gandhiji to commence the struggle.¹

By issuing this circular, popularly known as the "Kurnool Circular,"² the A.P.C.C. was ahead of other provincial committees in preparing a programme for the movement. Further, it was prepared earlier than the Quit India resolution passed at Bombay on 8th. Thus, Andhras were zealous to start the final struggle.

The news of arrests of Gandhiji and other leaders caused great discontent among the Andhras. All sections of people including students took part in it. Meetings were held in different places to condemn the Government action. Processions, hartals and demonstrations were organised, Railway and police stations were burnt at various places. In Tenali town the people observed complete hartal on 12th August, 1942 and on the same night the crowd set fire to

2. ibid.,
the Railway Station and damaged the property. The police party that arrived at the scene, lathi-charged, but, the situation went out of control. Therefore, the police opened fire and six persons were killed and eleven were injured.\textsuperscript{1} Chirala station was also set on fire on 12th August, 1942.\textsuperscript{2} Police Stations were burnt at Palakad, Akiveedu, and Alur.\textsuperscript{3}

\textbf{The Quit India Movement in Rayalaseema}

In Rayalaseema, soon after the arrests of national leaders, all prominent leaders were also arrested and kept in various jails in the Madras Presidency. The public protested with hartals, demonstrations, processions and public meetings. Some of the prominent leaders arrested were M. Anantasayanam Iyengar, M.L.A., and D. Ramasubba Reddy, M.L.C., in Chittoor, K. Koti Reddy, M.L.A., in Cuddapah,\textsuperscript{4} and Kalluri Subba Rao, G. Venkata Reddy, M.L.A., P. Rama-chandra Rao and Rama Rao in Anantapur. During this time, the house of N. Sanjiva Reddy, Joint Secretary of the A.P.C.C. was searched on 10th August.\textsuperscript{5} The Sri Sadhana Patrika stopped its circulation due to the arrest of its editor P. Ramacharlu. It helped in the growth of political awareness.

\textsuperscript{1} Gopal, B.R. (Ed): op.cit., part II, p. 194.
\textsuperscript{2} ibid.,
\textsuperscript{3} ibid.,
\textsuperscript{4} The Hindu, dated August 12, 1942.
\textsuperscript{5} ibid.,
awakening among the Rayalaseema people. In Tadpatri, K. Venkatarama Chari, and in Cuddapah T. Prakasam were arrested. The fortnightly reports of the Chief Secretary of Madras, to the Home Secretary, Government of India clearly show that, all disturbances in the Presidency were due to the arrest of leaders.

The movement spread to rural areas also. The peasants and artisans actively participated. They indulged in the destruction of the communication systems at many places and also advocated no-tax campaigns. At Pulivelvendula, in Cuddapah district, the Congress party organised a meeting on a shandy day (27-8-1942), when speakers appealed to the public not to pay taxes and encouraged them to adopt other violent methods. A similar meeting was taken out at Agadur, a village in Cuddapah district, on 28th August. In Chittoor district at Karvetinagar, R.B. Ramakrishna Raju, President of District Congress Committee convened a secret meeting on 1st September, 1942, with eight members, when they decided to carry the movement to the villagers with an appeal to the village officers and teachers to resign. On the occasion of Gandhiji's birthday, meetings were organised at Nagiri (by Ramakrishna Raju), Tiruttani and Palamaner, in Chittoor district. In Cuddapah district, meetings were held at Venkatapuram and other places where speakers appealed to the public not to

2. The Hindu, dated August 23, 1942.
4. G.O.No. 5, Public (General) Department, Government of Madras, dated 3-1-1944.
5. ibid.,
Meetings and processions were the order of
the day throughout the year in the Rayalaseema districts.
But, the tempo of the movement considerably declined,
though not totally abandoned, till 1943.

In the 1942 movement, women also actively participated
in distributing pamphlets, joining the processions and
demonstrations. In Kurnool, Mrs. S. Amaravathamma, wife of
S. Nagappa, a Harijan M.L.A., actively participated in the move-
ment along with her husband. She was arrested on 26th
October, 1942, in Kurnool for possessing leaflets which were
against the Government. I. Kasamma was arrested on the
charge of distributing anti-British pamphlets on November,
3rd, at Gooty in Anantapur district and sentenced to impre-
sonment for 9 months. In Cuddapah district, Mrs. H. Narasamma
offered individual satyagraha during the Quit India Movement.
She took part in subversive activities, for which she was
arrested in Guntakal.

The Kurnool District Congress Committee played an
important role in preparing a programme for the movement,
organising processions and demonstrations, boycotting courts
and educational institutions, urging government servants to
resign from their offices and also taking initiation in

1. Letter from District Magistrate of Cuddapah to the Chief
Secretary Madras, Ref. C1. No. 1388/48, dated 29-10-1942.
2. G.O.No. 19, Public (General) Department, Government of
Madras, dated 3-1-1944.
spreading the movement in rural areas. The famous Kurnool Circular of 29th July, 1942 was available only in the Kurnool District Congress Committee Office. Soon after the issuing of the A.P.C.C. Circular, the Kurnool District Congress Committee meeting was held at Nandyal on 3rd August, 1942 to discuss the proposed Civil Disobedience Movement and preparing programme for the forthcoming national movement. A copy of this programme was seized from Swamy Reddy, a Congress worker on 20th August by the government. It disclosed the programme of the District Congress Committee party, about the cutting of telephone wires and destroying of railway lines.¹

Students' Participation

The students too played a significant part in the movement by boycotting educational institution as a protest against the British repressive policies. The students of Anantapur, Madanapalli, Hindupur and other places boycotted schools and colleges and took out processions and organised demonstrations. The radical students participated in sabotage and other violent activities during the struggle.

The students of the Government Arts College (Ceded District College) at Anantapur and the Municipal High School conducted strikes in protest against the arrest of national

¹. G.O.No. 3280, Public (General) 1942 Department, Government of Madras, dated 14-10-1942.
leaders on the 12th August, 1942. A massive procession was taken out and a meeting held where a resolution condemning the action of the government was passed. The police lathicharged on the student gathering in Government Arts College at Anantapur when one out of the 15 students, was seriously injured. Similar strikes and protest meetings were held by students in Penukonda, Hindupur, Madanapalli etc., on 14th August, 1942. In Kurnool, the students of the local Municipal High School went on strike with the support of the local leaders on 12th August 1942 and abstained from attending classes for a few days.

At Hindupur, the students of Municipal High School went on strike for a fortnight from 15th September to 1st October. In Anantapur, students of the VI class in the Municipal High School boycotted their examinations on October 2nd Gandhiji's birth day. In Tiruttani, the members of Hindustan Scout Association expressed dissatisfaction against the arrest of the national leaders. The Scouts also supported the struggle. The Boy Scouts of Pulivendula and Proddatur High Schools participated in the strikes held in September and October 1942. Thus, the students of Rayalaseema played

1. The Hindu, dated August 15, 1942.
2. ibid., dated August 6, 1942.
3. G.O.No. 3280, Public (General) 1942, Department Government of Madras, dated 14-10-1942.
4. The Hindu, dated October 5, 1942.
5. G.O.No. 388, Public (General), Government of Madras, dated 5-1-1943.
During the Quit India Movement, a significant role was played by Jawaharlal Nehru. Despite Gandhiji's philosophy of non-violence, this movement turned out to be violent. Jawaharlal Nehru commented that "the people forgot the lessons of non-violence which had been dinned into their ears from more than twenty years." This was more because of the different viewpoints among national leaders. Jayaprakash Narayan, the Socialist leader, wanted this to be a revolutionary movement against the colonial government. In his famous letter, he said "we have to prepare, organise, train and discipline our forces. In everything we do, we have constantly to bear in mind that ours is not to be merely a conspiratorial action. It is total revolt of the masses that is our objective." The violent activities like the burning of Railway and Police stations was a direct result of such a call.

In Rayalseema districts, also many violent incidents occurred. The youth took part in sabotage and other activities. They attacked mainly post-offices, disrupted the communications, burnt up offices, attacked the railways all of which they considered symbols of British authority in the country. After the arrests of national leaders, the people...

resorted to incendiarism and cutting telephonic and telegraph wires and removal of fish plates. On August 15, 1942 the railway line was destroyed on the Guntakal Masulipatnam metre gauge line near Guntakal, resulting in the derailment of the train. In this connection, a group of people like Rangacharlu, Ramanujacharlu; Narayanacharlu, Rasool and others were arrested and sentenced to 3½ months imprisonment. On the same day, another derailment occurred on the Mormugao-Masulipatnam metre gauge at Guntakal. Gun-powder bags were found at Makkaji-palli, Penukonda and Dharmavaram railway stations and goods' sheds. The railway lines were destroyed by removing fish plates and bolts and postal boxes were removed in Cuddapah and Anantapur districts.

In Kurnool district, Bysani Satyanarayana, President of the Taluk Congress of Cumbum, was actively involved in the violent incidents. He was arrested on 19th September, 1942 and detained in the Central Jail at Vellore. On 31st August, 1942 a batch of Satyagrahis consisting of Nivarti Venkata Subba Rao, Dayananda Reddy, Shamsher Baig, M. Mahaboob Sahib and Kodi Narasimhulu participated in removing fish plates between Nandyal and Panyam railway stations. Except

2. Fortnightly Reports, dated 7-9-1942.
3. The Hindu, dated September 22, 1944.
Nivartī Venkatasubbayya and others were imprisoned. He surrendered finally on August 14, 1944.

The students of Ceded District College also participated in incendiaryism and other activities. The students of Anantapur burnt the Chemistry laboratory in the Ceded District College at Anantapur on 11th September, 1942. The Municipal High School at Penukonda was also burnt down and an attempt was made to burn the High School at Hindupur on 19th September, 1942. The communication system between Uravakonda and Guntakal was destroyed. The telegraphic poles and wires were removed and cut into pieces near Pyapali on 23rd August, and again on 15th September. C. Rammanna Gowd and eight others of Pedda Pyapali were suspected in this case. On 22nd September, the telegraph wires were cut off at four places in the Pulivendla - Cuddapah road.

Several incidents of burning of mail bags occurred in the Cuddapah district. On the 15th November, 1942, the mail bag was taken by P. Sitaramayya and fourteen others from Muddanur Railway Station. A mail runner was robbed of his bag in Muddanur area. On 30th September, the High School laboratory was damaged by the students and Congress workers.

2. G.O. No. 3309, Public (General) 1942, Government of Madras, dated 16-10-1942.
3. Letter from District Magistrate of Cuddapah to the Chief Secretary Madras, Ref. No. C.I. 1338 (Confidential) 1942, dated 2-10-1942.
4. The Hindu, dated December 27, 1942.
5. Letter from District Magistrate of Cuddapah to the Chief Secretary, Madras, Ref. C.I.No. 1338-42, (confidential) dated 22-12-1942.
at Pulivendla. In Kurnool district telephone wires were cut on 24th September, at Jolapuram village limits and also in the outskirts of Kurnool town and 750 feet of wire was stolen.  

Chittoor district was no exception. The derailment of the goods train was reported near Kalahasti on 22nd August, 1942. In another incident of derailment between Panapakkam and Chandragiri on 23rd August, 1942 the engine and four goods' vans capsized and one person was injured. The post-boxes were removed at Madanapalli in September 22, 1942. Nobody was arrested. Thus, during 1942-43 there was spontaneous mass upsurge against the symbols of British authority.

However, the government recovered this loss from individuals and villages by imposing fines and punitive taxes. Government also imposed fines on individuals deliberately. The amount of fines so imposed in the country amounted to Rs.90,07,382. These fines the government recovered were of ten times more than, according to one estimate, the originally estimated damages. In Andhra, fines were imposed on

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2. G.O.No. 3280, Public (General) 1942, Department of Madras, dated 16-10-1942.
4. Letter from the District Magistrate to the Chief of Madras Ref. No. 2866-1, confidential dated 15-4-1943.
ten districts, including Anantapur, Cuddapah and Kurnool districts. The highest amount of Rs.3,21,681/- was collected from Guntur district. The lowest amount of Rs.500/- came from Nellore district.¹

In Rayalaseema, collective fines were imposed on some villages. For example, people from Alamkhanpalli in Cuddapah taluk took part in the sabotage activities and damaged telegraph lines and road culverts during the month of August and September 1942. They also attempted to set fire to the Railway bridge near Krishnapuram Railway Station. So, the government imposed Rs.500/- as collective fine on the villages. But, interestingly, the government followed up its policy of Divide and Rule and exempted the Muslims and others depressed class people from paying the fine.²

Similarly, in Anantapur district, a collective fine of Rs.20,000/- was imposed on Kankottalapalli hamlet for the cutting off telegraph lines. Rs.18,000/- were recovered by the middle of November, 1942.³ The villages like Kottalapalli and Peddapayapalli were also fined Rs.500/- and Rs.2,000/- respectively.⁴ Thus, government always tried to suppress the

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². G.O.No. 3374, Public (General) 1942 Department, Government of Madras, dated 21-10-1942.
³. Fortnightly Report, dated 2-11-1942.
⁴. G.O.No. 3267, Public (General) Department, Government of Madras, dated 13-10-1942.
movement by imposing fines and followed the policy of Divide and Rule.

Public servants also responded to the call of the Quit India Movement by giving up their jobs and join the national movement. Lawyers openly extended their sympathy and support to the freedom movement. In Chittoor district, the Village Munsif of Chowdavaram, in Kalahasti taluk took part in the movement.  

1. The Headmaster of the school at Gazulapalli in Nandyal taluk, resigned his job and participated in the movement and was arrested. The Headmaster of the school at Nallamakalapalli in Dhone taluk resigned from his post and was arrested on 15th September, for his participation in the movement.

The local bodies in Andhra expressed their sympathy with the resolution of the A.I.C.C. at Bombay. Government took many steps to curb the activities of local bodies that supported the national movement. In Rayalaseema Chittoor and Kurnool District Boards were superseded for six months.

2. The Public servants of the local bodies were threatened by the government for participation in the movement. Further, the government quite often used Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code for prohibiting meetings and processions etc., It resorted

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1. Letter from the District Magistrate of Chittoor to the Chief Secretary, Madras, Ref. D-1745/42 confidential dated 11-10-1942.
2. G.O.No.3060, Public (General) 1942, Department, Government of Madras, dated 26-9-1942.
to lathicharge, whipping, shooting and imprisonment. The repressive measures were not relaxed till the movement completely subsided.

In Rayalaseema, all prominent leaders were arrested during the movement. The government searched the houses of Congress leaders. The house of S. Nagappa, M.L.A., was searched in Kurnool on 3rd October, 1942. At Madanapalli, when people gathered at a meeting in protest against government action, the police resorted to lathicharge.

Despite the slack in the tempo of the freedom struggle, government continued its policy of repression. Various obstacles were placed in the way of celebration of the Independence Day on January 26, 1943. General instructions were issued to local officials that they should be on that day. The Viceroy accused that Gandhiji was responsible for all acts of violence in the country during the Quit India Movement. To repudiate this charge of the Viceroy, Gandhiji undertook self purification fast starting from February 10, 1943 upto 3rd March, 1943. Consequent thereupon, the whole country was thrown into a state of anxiety for the

1. G.O.No. 3280, Public, (General), 1942, Department Government of Madras, dated 14-10-1942.
fast had been taken up by Gandhiji at the advanced age of 74. All the political parties and communities, with the exception of the Muslim League, appealed to the Government of India and sent memoranda to the British Government for the release of Gandhiji unconditionally.¹

As a token of sympathy, several persons, including also students, undertook fast, brought out processions and organised demonstrations demanding the release of Gandhiji. T.K.T. Viraraghavachari tried to conduct a meeting on 20th February, 1943 in Chittoor. But the police intervened and arrested him.² At Madanapalli when local students took out a procession on 22nd February, police lathicharged to disburse the students. Twentyfive students were injured.³ In Anantapur, the local branch of the Muslim League sent a telegram to the Viceroy praying for his release.⁴ Thus, Gandhiji's fast had a great impact on Rayalaseema.

The Freedom Movement lost its momentum in 1944. Activities became sporadic and occasional. Seven Congress volunteers who raised slogans against the British were arrested at Bhimavaram.⁵ In Rayalaseema, totally peace

² G.O.No. 19, Public (General) Department, Government of Madras, dated 31-1-44.
⁴ Fortnightly Report, dated 9-3-1943.
⁵ C.C. 73 of 1944 in the Court of Sub-divisional Magistrate, Bhimavaram.
prevailed. The Magistrate of Anantapur reported that "the activities of the Congress have become imperceptible." The reports from Chittoor Magistrate indicated no serious riots during the year and it was felt that there was no need for vigilence to the railway lines. The Magistrate of Cuddapah stated that, on the whole, there was peace and calm during the year. Reports from other districts also were similar in nature.¹

On February 22, 1944, Kasturi Ba, wife of Gandhiji passed away while Gandhiji was yet in jail. In Andhra, meetings were held to pay homage to Kasturi Ba, Government could not tolerate even this and banned the meetings at Bhimavaram. In Guntur, arrests were made when the volunteers went to ask the shopkeepers to close down their shops.²

Lord Linlithgow was succeeded by Lord Wavell as the Viceroy in October, 1943. As pointed about by V.P. Menon, Linlithgow's regime was "conspicuous by its lack of positive achievement." On the political side, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru expressed the general feeling that "today, I say, after seven years of Lord Linlithgow's administration, the country is much more divided than it was, when he came here."³ Linlithgow's exit came as a sort of relief to the Nation.

¹. These reports were submitted in response to the Government Memorandum No. 69644 (44-1), dated 5th December, 1944.
². The Hindu, dated February 25 and 26, 1944.
After some time, the British administration in India and England thought that the only way to resolve the political dead lock was by releasing Gandhi and other national leaders. Finally, Gandhiji was released on health grounds on 6th May, 1944. As a part his negotiations, Gandhiji wrote a letter to the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, on 27th July; but in vain. Efforts of Gandhiji to negotiate with Jinnah to solve the communal problem in the country also went in vain (September, 1944).

During the period, the Congress in Andhra, as elsewhere, turned its attention to the constructive programmes. All the old Congress committees were kept under suspension and in than place the District Congress Assembly in each district was formed to carry out the constructive work. By the middle of November such assemblies were started in a few districts. Kalluri Subba Rao and Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi toured the districts in this connection. The Congress leaders in Anantapur and Chittoor actively participated in the constructive activities in the villages. Prof. Ranga reorganised his Subha after his release from jail in 1944. For a discussion

2. Fortnightly Report, dated December 7, 1944.
3. ibid., dated December 23, 1944.
4. ibid., dated March 26, 1945.
of the kissan problems he organised an All India Kissan Sabha at Vijayawada and Tenali on April 1945. He toured in Rayalaseema and highlighted the peasants' problems.

In Chittoor, a peasants' conference was held on 2nd March, 1945. At the national level, due to the pressure of public opinion in Britain, Lord Wavell was summoned to England for discussion and he returned with the "Wavell plan", which was conciliatory to a great extent. Jinnah insisted upon the right of nomination of Muslim members to the Viceroy's Councils only by himself and the Muslim League. So the Simla Conference was turned out to be a failure.

In the general elections held in Britain, the labour party under Clement Atlee was voted to power. The new labour government lifted the ban on the Congress party and released all political prisoners and also conducted general elections in India. Elections for the central legislature were held in December, 1945 and the Congress party secured overwhelming majority. Leaders like T. Prakasam, Pattabi Sitaramayya, Kalluri Subba Rao, Kala Venkata Rao and N. Sanjiva Reddy actively participated in the election campaign.

Indian National Army (INA)

Reference must be made here to the I.N.A. of Subash Chandra Bose. Subash Chandra Bose had left India to organise a military revolt against the British in association with the Japanese. He succeeded in organising an army known as the 'Indian National Army' with the personnel of the Indian Military prisoners of war captured by the Japanese. Shortly thereafter, however, Subash Chandra Bose died and his death was announced in the year 1945. After the conclusion of the Second World War, 20,000 soldiers of the I.N.A., were repatriated to India. Three of its officers Shahnawaz Khan, Shahgal and Dhillon were charged with having waged a war against the King and they were put on trial in Delhi. The trial of I.N.A. Officers raised the anger of the Indians. There were country wide student demonstrations against the trial, Several Municipalities and District Boards passed resolutions condemning the trial. The Congress party raised a fund for the defence of the I.N.A. Officers and appointed a panel of lawyers consisting of Bhulabai Desai, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Pandit Nehru. Though the accused were convicted, the government hesitated to provoke the people and remitted their sentences.

2. ibid.,
The British Government sent a Cabinet Mission to India in March, 1946. But its plan also failed, due to differences between the Congress and the Muslim League on the issue of creation of Pakistan. After this the Interim Government was sworn in on 2nd September, 1946 with Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime Minister. Meanwhile, the British Prime Minister Clement Attlee announced on 20th February, 1947 that the British could transfer power to India latest by June, 1948. Lord Mountbatten was sent to India as the last Viceroy on 24th March, 1947. Attlee announced the partition plan in the House of Commons on 3rd June, 1947. This plan known as the 'Mountbatten Plan' provided for the establishment of two separate Dominions of India and Pakistan and the withdrawal of the British Government from India on 15th August, 1947. The Congress accepted the plan. The Indian Independence Bill received Royal Assent on 18th July, 1947. Thus India became an Independent Country on 15th August, 1947. Thus indeed the Movement of Indian Independence was a success and the people of Andhra as well as Rayalaseema celebrated the Independence day with great joy as people in other parts of the country did.