

The British Agrarian Policies and Peasant Movement in Punjab

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ABSTRACT

Mostly, the history of the Indian Freedom struggle had been written about the elite class. The role of agrarian class is ignored or underestimated. British East India Company came to India, made the policies for their benefits and Indian people. The negative effect of these policies was mostly upon Indian peasants. More than 70% of Indian population were from agrarian class. These policies ruined the life of agrarian class. They agitated against these policies, one side they fought for their rights and on the other hand they struggled for the Indian independence. This paper analyse the legacy of British rule in Punjab and negative impact of these policies with special reference to Canal colonization in Punjab, Land Alienation Act 1900 and Canal Colonization Bill which compelled the peasants of the Punjab to start agitation against these anti-peasant policies. For the freedom struggle of the India, there was a key role of Punjabi peasants who started furious agitations after 1900 and they continuously fought till India got independence.

Key Words: *Agrarian Policies, Canal Colonization, Land Alienation Act, Peasant Movement*

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In March 1849, British East India Company annexed the kingdom of Lahore; the whole Punjab came under British rule and proved to be important turning points in the history of Punjab. Before the rule of British East India Company, the share of Government was half of the total production. John Lawrence established a new policy of land revenue which decreased the land revenue but the cultivators were supposed to pay in cash directly in the place of a kind. These changes were welcomed by the cultivators in initial two years during when the crops were grown in a good condition and the market price was favourable. After some time when production of crops increased and more land was taken under cultivation which affected the value of grains in the market. As a result, price of grains fell down to about 50%. So, they were unable to provide tax as cash and wanted to pay tax in kind. However, Board refused to change the system. As the British East India Company knew that the Sikhs are good farmers, so they wanted to bring peace in the region and also secure land revenue. To achieve their motive Mahalwari system was

introduced, in which village community was responsible for the collection of land revenue. The revenue was collected on the basis of average annual production. This system worked till 1863. From 1863 to 1871, continuous settlements were carried out. In 1871, Land Revenue Act was passed which later on was replaced by the Act of 1887. Under this Act contract was signed between the British Government and the proprietary body which were given the responsibility of whole revenue. Consequently, act detained the rights of the village headman and land owners.

During the colonial period, Punjab became the hub of agriculture because of skilled labor and engineered techniques. Both foods were grown and cash crops were produced at large scale. What was highly cultivated in Punjab which was exported to many other countries like London, England. During the last decade of 19th century, Punjab was in 1st position in the production of Wheat. Then commercialization of agricultural products started in Punjab that changed the economy of rural areas. Wheat was replaced by the cultivation of Jawaar and Bahrain central Punjab and Sugarcane was replaced by cotton because of high demand during the American Civil war.

Because of commercialization of agriculture, peasants had to pay land revenue in cash and on the fixed time. It forced the peasants to sell their product at a low price. It also increased the indebtedness of the peasants. During the colonial period, the maximum population of Punjab was under Indebtedness. The main cause of the debt was the shift of revenue from kind of cash. They had to take a loan from money lenders at harsh terms and conditions for the payment of land revenue and buying agricultural tools. After the settlement of canal colonies, the land of Punjab became a commodity. The prices of land increase very fast, in 1869-1870, the cost of land was 10 Rs per acre, while as in 1938-1939, it reached up to 450 Rs. Per acre¹. Due to the continuous increase in the price of land, money lenders changed their attitude and started accepting land as a security for the loan. It became one of the most important reasons for the mortgages. In 1876-1877, the sale and mortgage of land were about 30,900 acres. Which then in 1886-1887, it increased up to 1,200,000 acres². Due to the increase in indebtedness mostly of peasant lost their ancestral lands. Peasants on one side were given heavy taxes to British government while as on the other side money lenders did not contribute anything to the British government.

AGRARIAN POLICIES IN PUNJAB AFTER 1900

I. Punjab Land Alienation act 1900

After completion of some projects of the canal colonization, British Government faced many problems. One of the major problems faced by the British Government was the fast-growing indebtedness of peasants. The cultivating classes started the transfer of land on mortgage system and also sell to elite money lenders. These problems were unknown during the time period of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. British crown framed the Land Alienation act which was passed in the British Legislative Council in October 19th, 1900. It was one of the most important events which had a great impact on the people of Punjab. In this Act, there were fifteen years of limitation for which the selling or buying and mortgage of land were restricted.

²Shadilal, the Punjab alienation of act I 1900, second edition, Addison press Lahore 1907, pg. no 12-13

Thus, this act snatched the rights of the people of agrarian class. The Land Alienation Act 1900 was passed “as an experimental measure”, thus, it was focused to extend it to the rest of the country if it worked successfully in the Punjab. This act also protected the zamindars from borrowing the money from the moneylenders and stopped the traders or professionals from any kind of transaction with the peasants.

The main objective of this act was to check land alienation from agricultural to non-agricultural class and also empowered the local Government to issue statements in future as per the grants of land were made. The act gave rights to the tenants as well as landlords to occupy the land. This Act also classifies temporary and permanent ownership of land. It also included exchanges, sales, gifts (for religious or charitable purposes) and wills (section 2(4)). This act gave its own definition of Sale, Exchange, Gift, and will.

“**Sale**” it is a transfer of property ownership in exchange for a price paid- Section 54

“**Exchange**” when ownership is being transferred from one person to another person, this transfer is called “exchange”, under section -118. It may be an exchange of money or of land.

“**Gift**” it is a transfer of movable or immovable thing or property given voluntarily by a person, called as a donor, to another person-Section 122.

“**Will**” means the legal declaration of the intentions of the testator with respect to his property which he desires to be carried into effect after his death³.

But this act does not include any gift for religious (mosque and temple) or charity (Dharamshala and Shari) purposes. The restriction was imposed by the Indian legislature on such type of gifts. But the Punjabi legislature provided his opinion that undesirable alienations may be affected under the grab of such gifts. This act divided the population of Punjab into three distinct groups:

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- Agriculturalists class, those persons who are the members of agricultural tribes and are cultivating the land.
- Statutory agriculturalists class those who do not actually belong to the agricultural class but long settled interested in the land.
- The third group was of moneylenders.

The first and second group (agriculturalist class and statutory class) were among the natural ones, but the third group was introduced by the British government. This act described that persons holding the agricultural land either in his name or from his ancestral male line can be considered as the owners of that land. Due to this act, landlords become the owners of the land. Restrictions were imposed on the sale and mortgage of the land from the first category to the other two categories, though members of the second category and third category could sell or mortgage land if they pleased. The financial commissioner made some rules in the matters of refusing the permission of the sale.

General provisions of Land Alienation act 1900

- In every agreement, the members of the agricultural tribe could not sell the production of his crops or any other products grew on land for more than one year.
- According to this act, restrictions were imposed on the sale of land. No land can be sold, belonging to agriculture tribe, without the permission of civil or revenue court.

1. shadilal, the Punjab alienation of act I 1900, second edition, Addison press Lahore 1907, pg. no 12-13

- According to this act, no provision or an instrument should be registered if it contravenes the act.
- Certain provisions of land revenue act 1887 chapter II should be applied to the proceedings of a deputy commissioner.
- This act does not allow legal practitioners to take part in proceedings before a Revenue officer.
- Act avoids the interference of the civil court in:
 - i. The jurisdiction of any matter exercised by Revenue officer.
 - ii. Cognizance of manner vested in Revenue officer.
- Civil court should create and send a copy of his statement to the Deputy Commissioner, if not fulfilling the conditions written in the code of civil procedure in both cases involving:
 - i. Permanent alienation of his land by any person belonging to agricultural tribe, or
 - ii. Mortgage of a person concerned to an agricultural tribe of his land when the mortgage is not member related to the same tribe or to a tribe of the same group.
- This act provided powers to Deputy Commissioner who worked as a Revenue officer of high rank.

II. CANAL COLONIZATION BILL

The British government introduced the canal colonization bill in the legislative council held at Lahore on 25th October 1906, and on 21st February 1907, it was passed. After the passing of Land Alienation act in 1900, This Bill was actually a process of formulating agricultural policies and making laws and regulations. The bill was introduced by Hon'ble Mr. Gordon Walker and the bill referred to a selected committee, consisting of the honorable Mr. Douie, Mr. Shah Din, Mr. Sardar Pratab Singh, Mr. Umar Hayat khan. The main feature of the bill was the abolition of the statutory agriculturist. Later on, it was approved by the authorities of the selected committee. The bill dealt with several other provisions and also took part to provide certain minor changes in the land alienation act of 1900. And the expectations which were created by the land alienation act 1900 now proposed to abolish.

- Narrow terms and definition of the act: - The definition of land alienation act amended as to include grants for occupancy rights for land, gifts for religious or charitable purposes. But later it was ordered to avoid.
- The holding of land as agriculturalists in the village: -In every village there were agriculturalists, who were not members of agriculture tribe.

The Canal colonization bill provides certain minor changes in the land alienation act. Which was the experience of the last six years has shown, because this bill was passed after six years of the Act. There were six headings which come under the change.

- The effect of the act on the occupancy rights.
- The treatment of gifts of land for religious or charitable purposes.
- The authority for notifying agriculture tribes.
- The enforcement of the provisions of the act regarding temporary alienations.
- The completion of the existing provisions regarding the conversion of conditional sales into temporary alienations.

- The relationship of civil courts towards the executive in the administration of the Act.

The first question was regarding the occupancy rights. The intention of farmers was that the provisions of this act should not be applied to occupancy rights because land alienation act restricted the alienation of such rights. The provisions of the act were for the member of an agriculture class to confer rights of occupancy on a person whose favours. He could not make any alienation of such rights.

Another point in connection with the occupancy rights is that under section 53 and 54 of Punjab tenancy acts, a landlord can argue in the case of sale of the mortgage on the right of occupancy, but those landlords, who don't belong to the agricultural class, can't make a restriction on bonafide exercise. It can be reviewed by a deputy commissioner while transferring it to his landlord.

Restrictions of permanent alienation imposed by the act were being omitted by gifts for religious or character. Sanction of deputy commissioner will be necessary, but sanction must be given to all bonafide gifts of this character.

Permission regarding notifying agricultural tribes has been obtained from the government of India. Its section 4 requires the sanction of the governor general in council in order to notify a tribe as an agricultural tribe. Practically tribes have been determined to support the previous section so that they are not objected. And the importance, providing sentences is removed from sanction by clause 5.

Validation of the period for which land can be temporarily alienated to outsiders is one of the main features of the act, and powers were given to deputy commissioner to handle mortgage or lease after the expiry of the prescribed period.

There were two forms of the mortgage under section 6. Among these two, the important one is about possession of land. Deputy Commissioner will determine under section 7 to mortgagor to get back land on payment of mortgage debt or a proportionate amount of it. If the mortgagee refused to receive amount when tendered by the mortgagor, the mortgagor might have to face the civil litigation. It is deputy commissioner, provided with powers to eject mortgagee where either

1. It is proven to his satisfaction that the mortgageor has paid the amount.
2. The mortgage tenders the amount due.

The less important defect is about mortgage without possession of land. If the mortgagor fails to fulfil the terms of the mortgage, the mortgagee can apply for a position to the deputy commissioner. But deputy commissioner was not provided with such powers at that time. This clause 6 has been framed for that.

The fifth point is all about a remedy for defects brought to light in working of the act and concerned with conditions of sale. Deputy Commissioner is empowered to put mortgagee to his election, whether he will stick to conditions of sale or will go for a new authorized mortgage.

Last six-point concerns about the action of civil courts in relation to the working of the act. In various cases, the civil court has passed order involving transfers of land in opposition to the provision of the act. The deputy commissioner should be kept informed about all orders by the civil court which they had passed for transferring land from members of agricultural tribes to moneylenders and he should be positioned to move the superior civil court to interfere. This all

has been framed in clause 9 of the bill. It provided a way to deputy commissioner to have a revision of orders of a civil court which appears him to be contrary to the provisions of the act.

According to the act section 2, its restricted colonizers to make wills and denied their rights to cut the trees on their land. And also, the legislature introduced the order to enhance the rate of water supplied from Bari Doab Canals. The civil courts were not hearing the complaints of the colonists. This placed the helpless colonists at the mercy of officer's regards of their natural rights and interests. They were also restricted to transfer of property at their own will. The canal colonization bill changes the fundamentals of land ownership in Punjab; they also transfer the farmers who had been dislocated from central Punjab to develop canal colonies on waste lands. Now these farmers become victims of shifts in policy. The motive of the bill was the transfer of a property to the British government if a person dies without the heirs of his own, The British government had a right they could sell their property to any public or private developer. They also provide house building material, at very low price. But the rate of water was taken very high rate in the Bari Doab area. In addition, there was 100% increase in water rate on cotton and sugarcane in the Beas Doab canal area.

PEASANTMOVEMENT IN THE PUNJAB

The Land Alienation Act and the Colonization bill became the cause of strong reaction in the Punjab. During British, Punjab was the most affected area. Punjabi people reflected the strong reaction against Land Alienation Act and Colonization Bill. The land alienation Act had already caused a feeling of dissatisfaction among the peasant class, and the Canal Colonization Bill ordered to enhance the rate of water supplied from Bari Doab Canals. It was a dishonest attempt taken by the British Crown, which mostly affected the peasant class. They described the bill as "a grave error" that would seriously shake public confidence. The Canal Colonization Bill provided for the transfer of property of a person after his death to the British government if he did not have any heirs of his own and the British Government have a right to sell the property to any public or private developer and they also increased the land revenue. This bill was totally against the social conditions prevailing in the region.

For the promotion of Swedish manufacture, Punjabi people promoted sugar production in upper Bari Doab canals. But the British government wanted to promote their modern industry. Because of the promotion of indigenous industries, they enhance the rates of sugar cane from 2 ½ to Rs 7 ½ per half an acre. They also increased the revenue of cotton in the district of Rawalpindi. These steps encouraged the discontent among the peasants of Punjab.

Canal colonization Bill was passed in February 1907 in the Legislative Council of Punjab, was the period of unrest in Punjab, popularly called as the "Punjab Disturbances". The scenario changed quickly, the peaceful atmosphere turned into revenge. All classes of society the tenant, the Peasant, the landless laborer class, and the common man living in the villages come out for their rights. During the same period, the weekly newspaper, journal of Punjab "The Punjabi" published two articles, one was against forced labor and the other one was about the murder of an Indian of a British officer. Both the editors were arrested and sentenced to two-and-a-half-year imprisonment. After this case agitation began in Punjab against these measures which were introduced by the British Government. This agitation was initially started from the districts of canal colonies including Rawalpindi and Lyallpur (Faisalabad) but was soon spread to Amritsar, Lahore, Gurdaspur, Batala, Firozpur, Hoshiarpur, Ambala, and Sialkot etc. The main cause of this agitation was the raising of the irrigation rates and also by the end of 1906, the British government decided to confiscate the property rights of the cultivators through the Canal

Colonization Bill. The result was the rise of strong and popular agrarian movement led by the educated middle classes in early 1907. The movement was first started in Lyallpur because it was newly settled area and became the hub of an agitation. According to Ajit Singh in a public meeting, "I choose a Lyallpur district as our centre to start agitation against British policies because Lyallpur was a new development area settled by the British crown. They took people almost every part of the Punjab and also retired military men. I thought that retired men could be useful in bringing about a revolt in an army".

Public meetings were held in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Lyallpur. This agitation became a mass uprising throughout Punjab. The movement was led by Sardar Ajit Singh, Lala Lajpat Rai, Sufi Amba Prasad, Sardar Teja Singh and Agha Haider. They organized the 'Anjuman-i-Mohiban-e-Watan' (The Society of Lovers of the Homeland) at Lahore and were bringing out a journal, Baharat Mata, this was a good opportunity to awaken the people of Punjab and initiate a plan for massive agitation against the British rule. Then numbers of meetings were organized for the planning of agitation. The first meeting was held in Lyallpur on 21st and 22nd March 1907. This meeting was attended by thousands of people and started protesting against the Canal Colonization Bill. The meeting was fixed in two days. The meeting was started with the recitation of a soul stirring poem written by Lala PrabhDyal "Pagree Sambhal O Jatta". After that, this poem became so popular and was recited every corner of Punjab. Then after people of Punjab from specific regions started protests against the British government, but it could not cover whole Punjab. Another meeting was held on 21st April 1907 at Rawalpindi, this meeting was attended by eight thousand persons. It was against the increase in land revenue in Rawalpindi district, and enhancement in water rates of upper Bari Doab canal and the practice of beggar or forced labor.

S.C. Mittal had stated in his book "Freedom Movement in Punjab (1905-1929)" that land revenue in Rawalpindi district has increased from £ 27,500 in 1864 to £ 36,400 in 1884 and further it increased in 1906 £ 45,000. Ajit Singh was the main speaker at this meeting. It was started with the soul striking poem "Pagree Sambhal O Jatta" (O peasant, take care of the turban your self- respect). In a meeting, Ajit Singh made violent attack on the British government. He entitled peasantry as the real rulers of a country and urged the peasants to stop cultivation until the amount was reduced and also not to lose courage, step forward fearlessly, boycott British goods and their rule.

He gave a call for the complete revolt, against the enhanced rates of the Bari Doab Canal. He also said if a person dies in the course of the freedom struggle, he will go to heaven. If he is jailed, he will go to pilgrimage. At the end of the speech there were shouts of;

"Majhe de zornal, Malwe de shornal Asinahin har de"

We do not deviate from the pressure from Majha and Noise from Malwa

An atmosphere changed very rapidly of hatred and bitterness against the British rule in Punjab. The deputy commissioner sent notice on Ajit Singh for his seditious speech along with three other organizers Lala Hans Raj, Lala Amolak Ram, Lala Gurdas Ram and ordered them to attend a public inquiry on 2nd May at 11:00 am. On the day of the hearing, a large number of people came from their respective places and make crowd outside of the court. According to "The Tribune" workers left the work, especially railway workers and joined the crowd. There were more than 10,000 people. Due to the fear of people deputy commissioner postponed the hearing. People became violent and start damaging the house of deputy commissioner and other government buildings. The whole town went on strike and whole business come to stand still.

The people formed the groups and went through the streets of every town. The fire was also set to mission house and the church. During this agitation, sixty-eight persons along with some leaders were arrested by the authorities. Both cases could be proved against only six who were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. The news spread to Rawalpindi the situations become more violent.

A protest meeting was organized at Lahore by Bharat Mata Society. The members of “Bharat Mata Society” develop the idea of nationalism in the minds of the peasants. In a meeting of Lyallpur, Ajit Singh said, “We should not help the British government, whether it works justly or unjustly because the government does not belong to our country. The British people are robbers, the words I am speaking, I may be hanged or imprisoned, I do not care. I wish to trample the British law under my feet; the British tyrant should be murdered”. After Ajit sings speech the agitation become more violent. People moved towards the Upper Mall and damaged the European Quarters and shouted slogans like ‘Bande-Mataram’. Ajit Singh regarded as a more dangerous enemy of the British government. The agrarian movement not only organized the peasants of canal colony areas of Lyallpur, Lahore, and Multan etc. but also provoked the traders and shopkeepers of Amritsar and Batala. The influence of agitation completely spread all over the districts of Gurdaspur, Lyallpur, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Ambala, Gujranwala, Kasur, Rawalpindi etc.

The revolutionary group under the leadership of Ajit Singh and Sufi Amba Prasad knew that this movement can be successful only through political education of the people. During the time period of 1907-1909, they started to making and distributing the revolutionary literature which was published by Bharat Mata book agency. Some famous literary works are Kaumiislahby Nandlal ; *Hindustan main Aangreezihakoomat*, *Ungli Pakarte Pahuncha Pakra* and *Divide and conquer* by Ajit Singh, *Ghader* by Swaran Singh; *Sarkari Malazmat* by Lal Chand and Kishan Singh; *Kaumen Kis Tarah Zindah Rahti Hain* by Sawaraj Singh and Kishan Singh.

There was some other most influential reason for the increasing the agitation in Punjab. The time period of 10th May 1907 was the 50th anniversary of the revolt of 1857. The British government had a fear that the people of Punjab might organize the second revolt. On 3rd May 1907, Governor of Punjab sent a Minute to the Government of India about the political situations of the Province. The chief secretary of Punjab sent a proposal to the governor for immediate arrest without warrant of Sardar Ajit Singh and Lala Lajpat Rai. He also wrote that Anti-European propaganda had been started in every corner of the Punjab because of Colonization bill and enhancement of water rates in Bari Doab areas.

To control the agitation Governor of Punjab demanded such powers for the establishment of peace as

1. Provide power to notify that any particular areas public meetings were not to be held without the permissions of police.
2. Provide Power to prohibit any such type of meetings which they want to organize without mentioning the specific reason.
3. The power to prohibit any specified person from addressing public meeting without taking permission and assigning any reason.
4. Press laws provided the power to suppress any paper, after warning any prevent its reappearance under the same management, though under another name.

5. If the editor of a newspaper is officially found to be guilty of a crime under any criminal section, the paper should be banned from publication till the decision of the final appeal.
6. Conspiracy to withhold the payment of government dues is made a penal offense.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab, Sir Denzil Ibbetson appealed that these powers should be given to the executive without delay because the situation of Punjab became serious. He also recommended the use of the power of arrest and deportation, which had been given under the Regulation act III section 2 of 1818 (under which a man could be sent to the jail and kept without trial for any length of time and without being charged with any offense).

Then after the proposal and recommendation was agreed by the members of viceroy's executive council on the 6th of May 1907. On the same day, the Governor General Lord Minto ordered the warrant be issued for the arrest of Sardar Ajit Singh and Lala Lajpat Rai and their confinement in the jail of Mandalay. He also imposed a ban on the public meetings and refused to allow Colonization Bill of Punjab on the basis of that "the Colonization Bill was a faulty piece of legislation". Henceforth Sir Denzil Ibbetson, the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab followed the policy of suppression. The most influential leaders of the movement Sardar Ajit Singh and Lala Lajpat Rai was arrested and deported. On 9th May 1907, afternoon of Thursday in Lahore city, Lala Lajpat Rai was arrested, immediately removed to Mian Mir railway station and then sent to the jail of Mandalay.

The District Magistrate of Lahore Mr. R.A. Mant ordered prohibition on public meetings in the city. Sardar Ajit Singh was arrested on 3rd June 1907 and was sent to Diamond Harbour for Mandalay jail. On the day of deportation to Mandalay Lala Lajpat Rai wrote an Article in "The Punjabee" and challenged the British Government: "Do what you may crush or kill it, fear will give way to the desire of martyrdom and arrests will speed up the national awakening".

The news of the deportation of these leaders reached from the district to district. The people of Punjab shocked and stirred a wide range agitation and the number of meetings was held to protest against the decision of the British Government. In the changed situation the Government took steps to control the agitation which was quickly growing in the Punjab due to the deportation of these extremist leaders. However to control the situation, it was an alternative to releasing these deportees and establish peace in the Punjab. So the secretary of State and Lord Minto ordered to release both of these deportees Lala Lajpat Rai and Sardar Ajit Singh. In this case, the Secretary of the State mentioned that this news should not be exposed and also they warned the Lala Lajpat Rai and Sardar Ajit Singh not to create public disturbances again. If they do so they might be deported again. For the public excitement, the Secretary of State instructed the Secretary of Bengal were to send them to their respective nearest residential railway stations. The colonization bill was voted and the water rates were reduced. Thus, on 18th November 1907 both of these deportees Lala Lajpat Rai and Sardar Ajit Sing were released and were brought back to Lahore.

After the release, Sardar Ajit Singh carried out his motive with other revolutionaries of the Punjab, he distributed the revolutionary literature for the encouragement of the people. On the other side, Lala Lajpat Rai gets busy for the attending of the meetings of Indian National Congress and other organizations. After 1907, he fought the elections of the Municipal Committee of Lahore and discharged his duties as Commissioner of the Municipal committee.

After his return from Mandalay (Burma), he neither considered himself as a Punjab Terrorist nor took much interest in the problems of the peasants of Punjab.

But Sardar Ajit Singh and his companion did not wait to resume further anti-British activities. Sardar Ajit Singh launched a new newspaper, namely '*The Peshwa*', with its editor Sufi Amba Prasad. He also brought a number of pamphlets '*BaghiWatan*', '*MuhibanieWatan*', '*BaghiMashi*', attacking the British rule in Punjab. The secret meetings were continued to be held daily and also distributed the revolutionary literature. A striking new revolutionary journal was published and again teased the Europeans with a striking title '*MaroFiringhi Ko*' and was distributed secretly among the people. An article '*Akhir- Aawaz-Suno*' by Zia-UL-Haq was published in the Peshawar newspaper dated 30th August 1909, the author of this article was punished with five years. On 5th November 1909 Nand Lal, Kishan Singh, Ishwari Prasad, and Munshi Ram were sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. In 1909, Sufi Amba Prasad and Sardar Ajit Singh disappeared from the country disguised as sadhus in order to escape and took refuge in Persia. In 1910, they started a revolutionary journal "Hayat". In 1913, Sardar Ajit Singh shifted Brazil, where he worked with Indian revolutionaries, also raise funds for Indian freedom struggle and in 1918, he came closer contact with Ghadar party which was most influential party at that time. In 1916 Sufi Amba Prasad Died, Sardar Ajit Singh spent 37 years in exile in foreign countries, in March 1947 he returned to India. On 15th August 1947 the day of independence, he died.

CONCLUSION

The main leaders of Peasant Movement of the Punjab died or exiled from their native countries. But the struggle which was started by the peasants of Punjab not ended, they fought continuously till the independence of the India. The peasant movement of 1907 makes a chain of the revolutionary movements in the Punjab. These movements were Ghadar movement, BabbarAkali agitation, the Kirti Kissan Lehar, the Muzaras struggle in the Punjab and the Socialists Revolutionary movement which was started under *Nawjawan Baharat Sabha*.

The brief Review of the Peasant Movement of the Punjab Clearly shows that the Sardar Ajit Singh and his Companions Agha Haider, Sufi Amba Prasad other revolutionary leaders played an important role in raising the Peasants of the Punjab against the Land Alienations Act and the Canal Colonization Bill and Lala Lajpat Rai helped them in the initial stage. But, unfortunately, this mass movement did not last for long. Although the leaders and Participants of this movement were achieved success with their immediate goals as the Canal Colonization Bill 1906 did not become an act of the law of Punjab. In this movement, People of Punjab fought united for a common cause.

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