

## **Subhash Chandra Bose - As a Swarajist**

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### ***Abstract***

The abrupt suspension of the Non-Co-operation movement created a political vacuum in the country. In the absence of mass political activities, Swarajist kept the anti-British spirit alive. The emergence of two opposing groups in Congress- One-in favor of continuing the old policy of non-cooperative and another in favor of entering legislative councils and constitutional means obstructing the British Government through within called pro changers or Swarajists Subash Chandra Bose, a symbol of assertive nationalism, leading force to kindle the flame of freedom not only in India but outside India also. His contribution to the freedom struggle as a swarajist is not much recognized as he worked in Swaraj Party as a follower of his political Guru C.R. Dass. Through his organization of youth, The young Bengal party, he prepared a volunteer group for Swaraj Party. Through his writing in the Newspaper Benglar Katha, The forward, and Atma Shakti, he propagated Swaraj Party's ideology.

### ***Keywords***

Assertive Nationalism, Pro-changer, Swaraj, Constitutional.

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The abrupt end of the non-co-operation movement was a great setback to Indian nationalists as it occurred at the time when Indians had geared up with full courage to oppose British Government. Its failure and arrest of Mahatma Gandhi in 1922 created an atmosphere of political vacuum and the national consensus which Mahatma Gandhi had formed a few years ago broke down and the nation suffered a crisis of unity<sup>1</sup> along with nation even inside congress unity broke on the question to non co-operate with the British Government in Gandhian way or to take entry into legislative council. One school of thought in congress led by C.R. Dass and Moti Lal Nehru was not in favor of boycotting of legislative council rather they were in favor of obstructing government through the constitutional way. They infect strongly oppose British Government.<sup>2</sup> They wanted to change the method of protest that non cooperating with the government from within.

In 1922 in the Gaya session of the Congress C.R. Das president of Congress failed to get passed his proposal of entering legislatures. So this led to the forming of Congress Khilafat Swaraj Party with C.R. Das as president and Moti Lal Nehru as secretary<sup>3</sup> other notable members included Subash Chandra Bose, N.C. Kelkar, Vithal Bhai Patel, etc. who were disappointed with Congress. The unity which was broken in the Gaya session was again created by Gandhi in the Belgaum session where he created trust between non-changers and Swarajist.<sup>4</sup>

Subash Chandra Bose was associated with Swaraj Party as C.R. Das his political Guru was the founder of the party and he had a very strong bond with C.R. Das. The main aim of the Swaraj Party was speedy attainment of domination status obtaining the right to frame the constitution, establishing control over bureaucracy attaining Swarajya (self-rule).

Subash Chandra Bose joined Swaraj Party to help his Guru wholeheartedly in the party affairs. Due to the collective efforts of Subash, C.R. Dass, Moti Lal Nehru Swaraj Party did well in the election and got sufficient majority in Central provinces, Bengal and emerged as a strong minority group in Central legislature in Delhi.<sup>5</sup>

Subash formed an organization of youth so as to gain their support in times of need for the party. As Subash had worked as the principal of National University so his contact with Youth was well established, another organization which he formed. All **Bengal Youth League** or the **Young Bengal Party**. As a resident of this organization, Subash worked for the complete independence of India.<sup>6</sup>

Subash Chandra Bose propagated Swaraj Party's ideas through his writings and newspapers. He performed this propagation work through his *Banglar Katha*.<sup>7</sup>

Which had been started in 1922. Subash was its editor and through his writings, he was successful in making this party popular among the masses due to which the Congress reached a compromise with Swaraj Party and allowed congressmen to participate in the forthcoming election to legislatures. However, it is remarkable to note here that Swaraj Party members never withdraw from congress, even they never challenge the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Even the very name of the Swaraj Party that was congress Khilafat Swaraj Party shows the affinity of the Swaraj Party with congress.

C.R. Das gave Subash another important responsibility that was to manage a new English daily, "The Forward" Deshbandhu had started this newspaper to celebrate his victory, but its organizers were arrested so he entrusted this work to Subash who worked very hard for its success. As he himself mentioned this success.

"Though the launching of the paper entailed very hard work on one part success followed rapidly and in it is a career, the paper was able to keep pace with the growing popularity and strength of the party within a short time, Forward came to hold a leading position among the nationalist journals in the country".<sup>8</sup>

Subash also worked for the party in association with more radical paper **Atma Sakti**<sup>9</sup> as weapons to nationalism like many other freedom fighters, Subash Chandra Bose used newspapers as a strong weapon to inculcate the feeling of nationalism. He propagated for the Swarajya Party and increased its popularity so much that in the next general election in 1923 under the Montague Chelmsford Act, the Swaraj Party achieved great success Subash could not stand in the election to the Bengal legislatures, as his name was missing in the electoral list still he worked in every way for the popularity of Swaraj Party.

Subash was given another important work by the party president, C.R. Dass. In April 1924, the Swaraj Party got a majority in Calcutta Municipal Corporation so when C.R. Dass was appointed its mayor, he appointed Subash as its executive officer of Calcutta Corporation.<sup>10</sup> Its during here in short tenure, he showed signs of great administrator as providing housing facility to the poor, providing free primary education, free medical relief, better transport facility health and sanitation. Besides this, he also tried to encourage Indian production and organized the co-operative stores for corporation workers to provide the advantages. He paid attention to improve education facilities, he increased the number of corporation primary schools, and also started a weekly corporation paper, **Calcutta Municipal Gazette**<sup>11</sup> on Nov. 5, 1924. He received mass popularity due to his philanthropic activities.

Thus he truly followed the words of Deshbandhu in his mind "the

civic bodies should be made into a real poor man's corporation. He let an idea for a poor. He reduced his salary from 3000 to half of it and helped students and friends in difficulty.

When Subash was busy in performing his duties as Chief Executive Officer of Calcutta Corporation. The government arrested him on Oct. 25, 1924, in suspect of his links in terrorist activities C.R. Das was greatly disturbed due to this event Subash Chandra Bose was so much dedicated to his work that he carried on his corporation work during the first six months of his imprisonment in Alipore Jail. Later on, he was shifted to Behrampur and then to Mandalay in 1925. While still in jail, he got the news of the sad demise of his political Guru C.R. Das on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1925. He was much grieved and shocked. Before the death of C.R. Das, after the Gandhi Das pact, it was decided that Congress would take the responsibility of running the election, instead of leaving it wholly on the Swaraj Party. As a result of no-confidence motion against the Ministry in the Bengal, council elections were held in 1926. During this time Subash was in prison, he stood in election from the North Calcutta seat. His rival was J.N. Basu, an ex-congress president, a liberal candidate although Subash has many disadvantages in this election as he was not a resident of the locality from which he stood secondly, he could not take part in the election campaign due to his imprisonment, moreover, the sudden death of his Guru and guide left him powerless in spite of all these disadvantages, Subash won the election with a comfortable majority.

After winning the election, in spite of being a member of the Bengal legislature council and also being sick, Subash was not released by the Britishess. In December 1926, he was sent to Rangoon and released in May 1927 by sir Stanley Jackson on medical ground.

In spite of his shattered health as soon as he was released from the prison, he set out to enforce the program of the Swaraj Party by entering the legislature, but by 1927. We find the gradual decline of Swaraj Party, due to rising communal politics, the emergence of responsivists and non responsivists, death of C.R. Das in 1925<sup>12</sup> after declining of Swaraj Party we find Subash Chandra Bose playing a more wider role in congress and Indian National platform. The spirit of Swaraj remained alive in Subash and the congress aim shifted during this period from dominion status to the complete freedom.

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