



FREEDOM STRUGGLE III  
SWARAJIST TO  
INDEPENDENCE

## THE SWARAJISTS

### Gaya Session of Congress: December 1922

- Two opposing groups formed over the issue of Council entry:
  - **Pro-changers:** advocating end of boycott of Legislative Councils.
  - **No-changers:** opposed Council entry.
- Pro-changers were defeated by 'No-changers'.
- **C.R. Das**, a Pro-Changer, resigned from the Presidency of Congress.

### The Swarajists

- Advocated a new line of political activity in the aftermath of the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- **Leaders: Chitranjan Das (C.R. Das), Motilal Nehru, Hakim Ajmal Khan, Vithalbhai Patel and S. Satyamurti.**
- Wanted to -
  - End the boycott of Legislative Councils and enter them.
  - Obstruct Legislative Councils' working and expose their weaknesses.
  - Transform them into arenas of political struggle.
  - Use them to arouse public enthusiasm
- In December 1922 formed the **Congress-Khilafat Swarajya Party**, commonly known as Swaraj Party.
  - C.R. Das became President and Motilal as one of the secretaries.
  - New party was to function within the Congress.
  - Accepted the Congress programme except one that it would take part in Council Elections.

### November 1923 Central Assembly Election

- Swarajists won 42 out of 101 elected seats.

- With cooperation of other Indian groups, repeatedly outvoted the government in the Assembly.
- **In March 1925**, succeeded in electing **Vithalbhai J Patel**, as the **Speaker of the Central Legislative Assembly**.

### Swarajists' Contribution

- Filled the political void when the national movement recouping its strength.
- Exposed the weakness of Reform Act of 1919. Their efforts led to the appointment of **Alexander Muddiman Committee** to look into the defects of 1919 Act.
- Due to their endeavor, government was forced to give protection to Tata Iron and Steel Company in 1924.
- Abolition of cotton excise duty.
- Reduction of duty on salt.

### Walked out of Central Assembly

- In March 1926 and then in January 1930.

## THE 'NO CHANGERS'

- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. M.A. Ansari, Rajendra Prasad, C. Rajagopalachari, Kasturiranga Iyengar.**
- Opposed Council entry.
- Warned that legislative politics would lead to neglect of work among the masses, weaken nationalist fervor and create rivalries among the leaders.
- Continued to emphasize:
  - Constructive programme of charkha.
  - Temperance.
  - Hindu-Muslim unity.
  - Removal of untouchability.
  - Grassroot work in the villages and among the poor.

- Hundreds of *Ashrams, National Schools and Colleges* came up all over the country by constructive workers.
- Later these workers served as backbone of Civil Disobedience Movements.

### The Swarajists and the 'No Changers':

- The two groups agreed to remain in the Congress on the advice of Gandhiji, but work in their separate ways.

## RESPONSIVISTS

- A group within the Swarajists.
- *Madan Mohan Malviya, Lala Lajpat Rai and N.C. Kelkar.*
- Offered cooperation to the government so that the Hindu interests might be safeguarded.
- Accused Motilal Nehru of being anti-Hindu, of favouring cow-slaughter and of eating beef.

## 1927: EMERGENCE OF NEW FORCES

- **New trend of Socialism emerged.**
  - Under the influence of Russian Revolution, many socialist communist groups came up.
  - M.N. Roy became the First Indian to be elected to the leadership of the Communist International in 1924.
  - Rise of new left wing in Congress under Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose.
  - This left wing not only fought British Imperialism, but also internal class oppression by Capitalists and landlords.

- **Indian youth became more active**
  - Youth leagues formed and student conferences held all over country.
  - First All Bengal Conference of Students held at Calcutta in August 1928 under the Presidentship of Jawaharlal Nehru.
  - Youth put forward and popularized the programme of complete independence.
- **Peasants and Workers movement again stirred up.**
  - **Uttar Pradesh:** agitation against tenancy laws. The tenants wanted:
    - ◆ Lower rents
    - ◆ Protection from eviction
    - ◆ Relief from indebtedness
  - **Gujarat : Bardoli Satyagraha – in 1928.**
    - ◆ Against increase in land revenue.
    - ◆ No revenue campaign led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- **Rapid growth of Trade Unionism**
  - Many strikes in 1928.
  - 2 months strike at **Kharagpur Railway Workshop.**
  - Strike at South Indian Railway.
  - Strike at **Tata Iron and Steel Works** at Jamshedpur. **Subhas Chandra Bose** played an important role in settlement of this strike.
  - **Most important strike:** Bombay Textile Mills strike.
    - ◆ 1, 50,000 workers on strike.
    - ◆ 5 months strike.
- **Revival of Revolutionary Movement.**
  - Reason: failure of Non-cooperation movement.