

NATIONAL MOVEMENT (1914 - 1917)

Home Rule Movement

During the First World War, the British required the support of Indian and they offered self-governance to India under the British control. Many Indian nationalists felt that it was a good opportunity for self-rule so they supported the British.

Indian leaders inspired by some countries like Canada, Australia, South Africa, New fenland and New Zealand, which were enjoying self-governing under the British rule. Leaders like Tilak, Subramania Iyer and Annie Besant decided to organise a league at the national level to demand home rule so, this movement also known as the home rule movement. This led to the formation of two home rule leagues.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak:

In December 1915, Tilak started a home rule league in Pune. Tilak proclaimed that 'swaraj is my birth right and i will have it'. Tilak started his Home Rule League in Maharashtra, Central Provinces, and Karnataka and Berar region.

The League published pamphlets in Marathi, English, Kannada and Gujarati. Tilak travelled from village to village for support from farmers and locals to join the movement towards self-rule. The home Rule movement became popular under Tilak's leadership.

Annie Besant:

Annie Besant, a theosophist adopted India and worked for its liberation. She was inspired by the Irish Home Rule Movement

and formed the Home Rule League in September 1916, at Adayar in Madras.

Annie Besant started this movement to demand self-government at all levels of administration. Her home rule league became active throughout the India. She was arrested along with her co-workers and released after widespread agitation against the action of government.

Spread of the movement

The League promoted the Swadeshi, National Education and Home Rule for India. There were many existing members in the league and new people also joined. Jawaharlal Nehru joined the league at Allahabad. With support from the moderates and the INC the leagues started a movement for the social, educational and religious regeneration of the Indians.

It spread to the interior of Sindh, Punjab, Gujarat, Bihar Orissa etc, Leaders of the league felt that it improves the conditions of Indians travelled throughout the country to popularise the demands of home rule.

Impact of the movement

- . The Home rule made the woman participate in large number.
- . League joined hands with Indian National Congress demanding self-rule.
- . The British government was compelled to change its attitude towards India.
- . In 1919, the Government of India Act was passed.