Parallel Government in Midnapore: A Historical Study, 1942-1944

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ABSTRACT: *The present work attempts an analytical narrative detailed study of the India's Freedom Movement; two-year period in Midnapore in south-western District of Colonial Bengal in 1942-1944, during the World War-II. The advent of Mahatma Gandhi's (Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi) leadership in the Nationalist Movement made a turning point in the Freedom Struggle in India against the British rule. Worldwide economic depression in between the two World Wars and the oppressive colonial rule intensified the rural base of the Freedom Struggle in Midnapore, the largest District in the then Eastern India. It will analysis how the people of this District joined this activities absence of eminent Congress leaders of India, the temporary setback of the radical phase of the Movement during World War–II, roll of huge number of Women and Students, Hindus and Muslims simultaneously.*

Key Words: *Quit India, Denial Policy, Food Crisis, Danipur, Tamluk, Midnapore.*

Introduction:

In 1939, British Government had brought India into the World War –II, without any consultation with the India's National leaders. Congress leaders were opposed this decision. Also, the failure of Cripps Mission March, 1942, brought about a distinct change in the attitude of the Congress. In 1942, inaugurate of Gandhi's leadership in the Nationalist Movement made a turning point in the Freedom Struggle in India against the British rule. The Congress Working Committee passed the 'Quit India Resolution' on 14thJuly and on 8thAugust at Bombay the Congress leaders finalized the 'Quit India Resolution'. Mahatma Gandhi indicated in his public speech (Quit India Speech) that the impending Movement was the final Struggle for Freedom. On this day Gandhiji made a call to 'do or die', 'nothing less than freedom' and 'open rebellion'. On 9th August, after the arrested of top ranking leaders in all over India, local people of India took the movement own hand as well as Midnapore sub-division in Bengal Province. Especially, the role of Midnapore District was the most in August Movement because in the Tamluk sub-division of this District formed a Parallel Civil Administrative System against the ruthless British rule formed self Government which was called "Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar" in 1942-1944 and "Thana Jatiya Sarkar''. In this time, in 16th October, 1942, there occurred devastating Cyclone in Midnapore District and it caused huge damage, food crisis and just the year after in 1943 in Bengal there spread famine epidemic form and this Self Government able to save the life of the people against it and to materialize it. In the Freedom Struggle the contributions of the different Districts of Bengal was varying nature and degrees, but it must be conceded that the District of Midnapore deserved the honor of the first place.

Research Methodology:

Quantitative and Qualitative methods will be applies to study the subject matter. The objectivity will be taken as tool to represent the subject matter. Both the primary and secondary sources will be tapped to study the Quantitative and qualitative aspects of the research work. Private papers and personal interviews of the respective revolutionaries will be consulted. Side by side personal interviews will be taken to make a cross checking the information to be collected from the primary and secondary sources. Primary sources mostly were to be collected from the state archives of West Bengal, as well as the police reports.

Quit India Resolution:

The Quit India Movement was Gandhi's last All India Satyagraha on the Indian soil. 'Quit India', a simple but authoritative slogan was given during the World War–II. Perhaps the movement can also be called as a by-product of the war situation. The movement was honestly multi-dimensional, all embracing and broad-based; it cut across the blockades of casts, creed, community, religions, and sex produce mass struggle overwhelming the entire country. The elites, the intelligentsia, the middle and lower classes, lawyers, women's students, workers, artisans, craftsmen and peasants all participated in the mass movement. On 14th July, 1942, Congress Working Committee passed a long resolution generally known as the 'Quit India Resolution'. it renewed the demand that "British rule in India must end immediately", and reiterated the view that Freedom of India was "necessary not only in the interest of India, but also for the

safety of the world and ending of Nazism, Fascism, militarism and other forms of imperialism and the aggression of one nation over another….should, however, this appeal fail ….the congress will then be reluctantly compelled to utilize all the Non-violent strength it might have gathered since 1920….” (01)

Resigned the Congress Ministers:

The failure of Cripps Mission March, 1942, brought about a distinct change in the attitude of the Congress. In 1939, British Government had brought India into the World War–II, without any consultation with the India’s National leaders. Congress leaders were opposed this decision and Congress Ministers were resign from eight provinces, but Muslim League supported, also they celebrate 22ndDecember, 1939 ‘Day of Deliverance’. They began to think in terms of lunching Mass Movement and the British Government on the other hand, was ready to crush the Movement.

Struggle in India:

The All India Congress Committee met at Bombay on 7th to 8thAugust, 1942, and ratified the ‘Quit India Resolution’. On 8thAugust, Gandhiji made a call to ‘do or die’, in his ‘Quit India Speech’ delivered in Bombay at the ‘Gowalia Tank Maidan’ (August Kranti Maidan). But early morning at 2nd O’clock of 9th August, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi and all others eminent leaders were arrested by the British Government under the Defense of India Rules (DIR). The arrested of leaders of the Congress, was a clear indication for the outbreak of an ‘Open Rebellion’ against the British Government almost in every nook and corner of the country. As soon as, news of large scale arrested was immediately followed by Non-Violent popular demonstrations – protest meetings, streets processions, hartals (strikes) carried with National Flag were held all over India. On 9th August, morning it first started in Bombay, gradually the fire spread all over British India and the whole Nation cried with one voice–“Britishers, Quit India”. (02) Not only in Bombay, there were also disturbance in Ahmadabad, Poona and simultaneously in widely spread in the provinces of Madras, Bombay, Bihar, Bengal, Central and United Province. Thus, while the rampage of 1942 went on unabated throughout India until November, the Congress leaders of Midnapore were busy in organizing meetings, ‘hartals’ (strike) and processions with a view to educate the people for their spontaneous participation in ‘Quit India Movement’.

Struggle in Midnapore:

The Congress volunteers succeeded in creating an anti-British feeling in early 1942. Thus, while the ‘Quit India Movement’ in the rest of Bengal began as a movement of the educated middle class ‘bhadraloks’ (Gentlemen), it was Midnapore that exhibited the distinction of mass involvement in its crucial struggle against the British Rule. (03) The movement passed through three phases between August 1942 to March, 1943.The first phase lasted for one month from 8th August to 27th September, 1942, as the phase of propaganda and preparation. The second, from 28th September to the end of October was the phase of concerted and aggressive action. From 1st November, 1942, till 31st March, 1943, was the period of isolated events and disintegration. Preparation for lunching a Mass Movement thus went on, in Midnapore, from June 1942. (04)

Government Food Policy:

Food policy of Colonial Government was anti–people in Midnapore District. The year 1941 would be deficit year so far as the food–situation of the sub-division was concerned, local leaders of Tamluk suggested to the District Magistrate to import rice from abroad and to take measure to stop export of rice from this region, but the bureaucratic head of the District did not concerned to listen the advice. So, congress workers protested, but they found themselves in jail on various pretext, empowered by the Defense of India Rules. (05) Government on the issue of exports of paddy and rice reached its climax at Danipur in Mahishadal Thana.

Denial Policy:

Midnapore District of Colonial Bengal was declared an emergence area with the fall of Pearl Harbor and Singapore by the invention of Japanese troops. With the failure of Cripps Mission all types of indigenous boats and carriers were to be removed from the coastal region in Bengal Province lest the fear of Japanese troops should use them. Tamluk sub-division along with other costal parts Midnapore was declared an emergency area for fear of Japanese invention. (06) Another order on 8th April, 1942, the irresponsible authorities wanted the removal of all types of boats, lest the Japanese should use them. (07) The District Magistrate issued an order that all types of boats of the entire Contai sub-division, the Nandigram Thana and Moyna Thana of the Tamluk sub-division must be removed within 3 hours to a certain place the distance varying from 30 to 90 miles from the prescribed area. Hundreds of boats were burnt and destroyed and thousands of rupees worth of valuable property wantonly destroyed. Santosh Kumar Basu, a minister of the Bengal Government at the time, appeared in the scene in defense of the policy and gave an assurance that

compensation would be paid. Then there came still another order, equally oppressive, for removing bi-cycles. The entire area covered by Nandigram, Sutahata, Mahishadal and Moyna and a substantial area of Tamluk and Panskura Thana were denuded of bi-cycles. Nominal compensation was paid. (08) Thus, in matters relating to 'Denial Policy', the Government failed to realize the untold suffering into which the thousands of people were thrown and the discontent that was bound to follow. (09)

Volunteers Crops:

Partly to resist possible Japanese aggression and partly to face the Government atrocities, local Congress leaders was thought necessary to make preparation the Volunteers corps. So, a large army of volunteers was raised Sutahata and Mahishadal, two thanas founded two trained 'Volunteers Corps' as 'Bidyut Bahini' (Lightning Armies), Sushil Kumar Dhara as a Commander. In Tamluk sub-division took lead role 'Bhagini Sena Sibir' (Sisters' Army Camp) was also started at Sutahata Thana with the trained women volunteers. Many prominent leaders including Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh – member of Congress Working Committee, Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, Ananda Prasad Chowdhury and Panchanan Basu paid visits to the Sub-division and inspired the people, also were visited camps. (10) The Volunteers Corps was entrusted with the tasks of removing war phobia from the minds of the people, preventing export of rice from the District and to lunch constructive works in rural Midnapore. Moreover, the Congress Volunteers exhorted the people to remain calm in the midst of Government repression. (11)

Danipur Police Firing:

After 9th August, 1942, local Congress leaders started organizing Non–Violent Movement as meetings, hartals (strikes) and street Processions in all sub-divisions of Midnapore District. On 8th September, 1942, Sudhir Kumar Sarkar, police officer, went with a number of constables to Danipur in Mahisadal and helped the owners of the rice mill to export rice by 'Rupnarayan River'. About two and a half thousands of villagers assembled and wanted to stop this export. The police opened fire, three peoples were killed and hundreds of people were injured. This was the first shooting incident in the sub-division of Midnapore. (12)

Direct Action:

On, 24 September, 1942, the Congress leaders of Tamluk sub-division, following the path of 'Direct Action' in contravention of Gandhi's call for Non-Violence, decided in a secret meeting, to raid all the Government Offices there would be simultaneous attacks on 29th September, 1942, the Police Stations, Courts and other Government Centers, about one lack of persons, both Hindus and Muslims participated in this fight.(13) Also, as well as Contai sub-division characterized the movement in Midnapore.

Raided of Police Stations:

Frontal attacks were made on police stations of Tamluk, Mahishadal, Sutahata and Nandigram in Tamluk sub–division. It is significant to note that Panskura and Moyna Thana of the same sub-division were excluded from the Congress program of raid on Police Stations and other Government Offices owing to the weak organization of the Congress volunteers in these two Thana. (14) On the night of the 28th September, big trees were felled to block the important roads towards Tamluk town. Thirty culverts were broken and twenty big holes were dug on the road. Twenty seven miles of Telegraph and Telephone lines were cut off and 194 Telegraph posts were broken. The ferry boats of Cossye and Hooghly rivers were sunk. (15)

On 29th September in Tamluk:

On 29thSeptember, 1942, three police stations of the Tamluk sub-division as Tamluk, Mahishadal and Sutahata were simultaneously frontier attacked and Nandigram Police Station was attacked on 30th September, 1942. On 29th September, and during the next seven days, the following were burnt and destroyed: - one police station, two police outposts, two sub-registrars offices, thirteen post offices, nine Union Board offices with their papers, ten Panchayet offices with their papers, twelve liquor shops and four Duk Bungalows, and thirteen offices of the Mahishadal Raj Estate. (16) At 3 p.m. on 29thSeptember, previously settled, five big processions approached towards the Tamluk town from different directions. The processions consisted of Hindus and Muslims and there was large proportion of women in each procession. (16a) A procession of twenty thousand people, all unarmed and non-violent, approached towards Tamluk town to seize its police station where it met with indiscriminate firing resulting in deaths of some persons. (17)

Women Procession:

Matangini Hazra, who was 73 years at the time, led a procession of six thousand supporters, mostly women volunteers, with the purpose of taking over the Tamluk police station. (18) 'Biplabi' newspaper of the "Tamralipta National Government" commented, "Matangini led one procession from the north of the criminal court building; even after the firing commenced, she continued to advance with the tri-color flag, leaving all the volunteers behind. The police shot her three times. She continued marching despite wonders

in the forehead and in both hands. She died chanting 'Bande Mataram'." (19) Matangini Hazra of the women volunteers who fell to police bullet was identified in Biplabi as 'the most heroic woman deserve praise for her devotion to the cause of freedom, self-sacrifice and zeal to keep the national flag flaying.' (20) Ten persons were killed and twenty others were seriously injured at three places in Tamluk Town on 29th September, 1942. (21) Twenty persons were killed and two hundred and fifty hundred others were seriously injured both at Mahishadal and Tamluk town on 29th September, 1942. (22)

Sutahata Thana:

'Bidyut Bahini' (Lightening Armies) members in uniform and also members of the 'Bhagini Sena Sibir' (Sisters' Army Camp) were took part on 29, September 1942, in front of the big processions consisting of about 40,000 people from Sutahata thana, which was set on fire and two Aero planes at this time flew at the low height over the gathering and dropped at least one bomb, which fell into a tank and did not cause any damage. (23)

Nandigram Thana:

On 30th September about ten thousand revolutionaries attack the Nandigram police station, the police opened fire, four persons were killed on the spot and one succumbed later on Tamluk Government hospital. Sixteen persons were wounded. Then they burnt and destroyed the opium and hemp shop, the debt settlement office, the 'Katchari House' (Rent Collection Office) of the Mahishadal Raj at Reapara and the post office there. (24)

Government activities in Tamluk sub-division in 1942: (25)

Death form police firing	40
Wounded in firing	199
Injured	142
Rape on women	73
Molestation on women folk	150
House burnt	117
Arrest	1868
Assaulted by Lathis	4226
Bombing	One time at Sutahata.

Contai Sub-division:

According to Contai sub-division Congress Committee report Thirty-Nine (39) persons were killed and One Hundred Seventy Five (175) persons were wounded by Police and Military firing throughout the sub-division from August to November 1942. (26)

Role of Students and Women:

Students and Women were not separate from this movement, they were also took active role simultaneously. The students of Tamluk Hamilton H. E. School joined the hartals (strikes), organized meetings and processions. About 500 students and teachers of high schools of the sub-division had joined this revolution. (27) Prafulla Kumar Bag was the student of class- vii in Mahishadal H. E. School joined this struggle. (28) 16th years old Upendranath Jana also joined and he was died by police firing on 29th September, 1942, in Tamluk. (29) Huge number of women also joined this struggle as, Smt. Kumudini Dakua, Smt. Giribala Das (Jyotsna Das), Smt. Laxmimoni Hazra, Smt. Giribala De (Usha Choudhury), Charusila Jana were member of 'Bhagini Sena Sibir' (Sisters' Army Camp) (30). Also they were members of 'Garam Dal' (Militant Group) associated with the Revolutionary actions. (31) Matangini Hazra also joined and she took heroic death handed with the tri-color national flag and chanting 'Bande Mataram' on 29th September, 1942. (32) Also, her 12 year old grandson was killed by the police firing. (33) Charusila Jana, Susilabala Debi, Giribala De member of 'Sisters' Army Camp' in 'Sutahata Thana Jatiya Sarkar' also took jail in 5th May, 1943. (34)

Terrible Cyclone in Midnapore District:

With police brutality for the August movement, Midnapore witnessed unprecedented natural calamity which was never experienced within living memory. The terrible cyclone of the 16th October, 1942, wrought indescribable havoc on the entire Tamluk sub-division in Midnapore. According to local estimate about Ten Thousand (10,000) people and Seventy Percent (70%) of the cattle died. (35)

Cyclone in Tamluk Sub-division:

S. D. O. of Tamluk refused to suspend the curfew order for a short period in that terrible night of the cyclone. Boats were not allowed to be freely used in the denial areas for saving the lives of persons who

somehow escaped their doom by sitting on a tree or the house top at the time of tidal bore. Not only was no relief given for weeks, but no non-official relief organization was allowed to come and operate here for about a month, during: which period, villagers died by hundreds for want of effective relief. Even, a worker of the 'Marwari Relief Society' came to ascertain the need of relief, but he was arrested and his stock of rice and other things brought for the purpose of relief taken away by officials. (36)

Report by the S. D. O. of the Tamluk Sub-division effected by the cyclone in 16th October, 1942: (37)

People Died	3,837.
People Injured	1,072.
Cattle Perished	68,193.
Houses Totally Collapsed	1,10,346.
Houses Partially Damaged	76,958.
Crops Destroyed	21,511,49 Acres, 50% of Total Land

Cyclone in Contai Sub-division:

The S. D. O. of Contai went out to visit the affected area personally in the Mofussil on 7th November, 1942, on the twenty third day after the occurrence.(38) Contai sub-division being the 'Denial Area' all the boats and 'Dingies' (Tiny Boats) there were previously seized, destroyed and burnt by the Government. No, boats, therefore, were seen to be used for saving the lives of the persons.

Postponed the Revolution:

Caused of the Cyclone, Congress workers of Midnapore, stopped Revolutionary activities and took up relief works as cremation of dead bodies, clear the dead body of cattle, giving first–aid to the injured, clearing the roads and tanks, arranging supply of food and medicines. Sixty miles embankment was repaired, surplus paddy of the well-to-do was distributed among the needy Villagers. (39) Repair of roads and others sanitation works remained under their purview. Many others constructive works were undertaken by the Parallel Government. (40)

Parallel Government in Midnapore:

On 9th August, the Quit India Movement spread all over India as well as Midnapore District in Bengal Province also joined. In the time of August movement sub-divisional Congress Committee has set up a Parallel Government against ruthless British rule as "Tamralipta National Government" under the Republic of Greater India or in short, "Tamraipta Jatiya Sarkar'', was established on 17th December, 1942, (1st day of Pous, 1349 B.S.), (41) will introduce in full fledged democratic Government in future, especially Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, Satish Chandra Samanta, and their young lieutenant Sushil Kumar Dhara, the three principal architects of "Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar'', had been very strongly imbued with the ideals of democracy and liberty. Following proclamation was published in the subsequent issue of 'Biplabi' bulletin, published on 26th January, 1943. It will form part of the Great Indian Federation and will introduce a full-fledged democratic Government in future. All executive powers of the Government have been vested on a 'Sarbadhinayaka'. Also he has formed his council of ministers and has been conducting the business of the Government, similarly, 'Thana Jatiya Sarkar' or 'National Government at the Thanas' (P.S.), have been set up in the four thanas of Tamluk, Mahishadal, Sutahata and Nandigram from 26th January, 1943 and an 'Adhinayaka' has been appointed in each of these thanas who has been empowered to run the administration with the help of his Council of Ministers". (42)

Leaders of National Government:

Satish Chandra Samanta, universally respected leader and president of Tamluk sub-divisional Congress Committee in Midnapore, was elected 'Sarbadhinayaka' of "Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar", also Nilmoni Hazra had been elected 'Adhinayaka' of 'Mahishadal Thana Jatiya Sarkar', Dr. Janardan Hazra, 'Adhinayaka' of 'Sutahata Thana Jatiya Sarkar', Kunja Behari Bhakta Das, 'Adhinayaka' of 'Nandigram Thana Jatiya Sarkar', Gunadhar Bhowmik 'Adhinayaka' of 'Tamluk Thana Jatiya Sarkar'. (43) Satish Chandra Samanta the first 'Sarbadhinayaka', of "Tamralita Jatiya Sarkar", was succeeded by Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, Satish Chandra Sahoo, and Barada Kanta Kuiti, all veteran leaders of the sub-division. (44)

Administrator of National Government:

The Congress workers of Tamluk took a bold stand against the systematic Government oppression and set up a Parallel Government called "Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar'', on 17thDecember, 1942. "Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar" cherished the fond hope of being incorporated into the body of the All India Federation when the later would be formed. On account of exceptional circumstances of the time in the region, election could not be held but one senior member of the Tamluk Congress Committee was nominated as the 'Sarbadhinayaka' (Director) of the 'Jatiya Sarkar'. The director was empowered to appoint, subject to the approval of the sub-divisional Congress Committee, ministers to take charge of Different Departments. (45)

The director would run the administration with the aid and advice of the cabinet ministers. (46) The 'Sarbadhinayaka' (Director) himself was the War minister. (47) But elsewhere the director was in charge of External Affairs. (48) Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee was in charge of Finance and Susil Kumar Dhara was Home Department respectively. (49) Satish Chandra Sahoo, as minister of Finance and Education, Balaram Das, as minister in charge of Industry and Publicity, Binoy Krishna Bera, as minister in charge of Communications and Banga Bhusan Bhakta, as minister of Home Affairs. (50)

Various Departments:

Department of Ministers included, as Department of War, Department of Health and Public Safety, Department of Law and Order, Department of Internal Security, Department of Education, Department of Justice and Judiciary, Department of Communication and Postal Services, Department of Finance, Department of Food and Supplies, Department of Famine Relief – were left under each minister of "Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar". (51)

National Army:

The important announcement of the 'Sarbadhinayaka' – the volunteers' organization 'Bidyut Bahini' (Lightning Army) which had been the main pillar of this movement, was declare as 'National Army' by "Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar". (52) The 'Bidyut-Bahini' was first formed at Mahishadal Thana; later Tamluk Thana (P.S.) and Nandigram Thana (P.S.) also organized their own 'Bidyut-Bahini'. Each Thana's (P.S.) 'Bidyut Bahini' was one G. O. C. (General Officer Commandant) and one commandant. Later on following branches were opened: 'Guerilla Detachment, sisters' army, law and order'. (53), and the cyclostyled Bulletin 'Biplabi', became the Official Organ of ''Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar". (54)

Garam Dal:

The violent activities in Tamluk sub-division during the period of Parallel Government was perpetrated by the 'Garam Dal' (Militant Group). Bengal Government had declared this association as illegal. 'Garam Dal' was an integral part of four thanas and sub-divisional 'Jatiya Sarkar', but it had a separate entity and a different organizational base. (55) But its leaders and members were closely attached with this Parallel Government. Sushil Kumar Dhara, G. O. C. (General Officer Commandant) of the 'Bidyut Bahini' was privy to the formation of this group. (56) More than one hundred incidents of such type were committed in the region by the 'Garam Dal' and the British Government failed to trace single one among these. Smt. Kumudini Dakua, Smt. Giribala Das (Jyotsna Das), Smt. Laxmimoni Hazra, Smt. Giribala De (Usha Choudhury) (57), Smt. Charusila Jana, Susila Bala Debi, (58), were women member of 'Garam Dal' (Militant Group) associated with the Revolutionary actions. (59)

Sisters' Army camp:

In Tamluk sub-division took lead role 'Bhagini Sena Sibir' (Sisters' Army Camp) was also started at 'Sutahata Thana' with the trained women volunteers. Smt. Kumudini Dakua, Smt. Giribala Das (Jyotsna Das), Smt. Laxmimoni Hazra, Smt. Giribala De (Usha Choudhury), (60), Smt. Subodh Bala Kuiti, Smt. Prabhabati Sinha, Smt. Menaka Bhowmik, (61), Smt. Charusila Jana, Susila Bala Debi members of 'Sisters' Army Camp'.

Gang Raped:

On 9th January, 1943, daroga Nalini Raha and six hundred of Police and Military Forces from Geokhali out post came to three villages – 'Masuria, Chandipur and Dihi-Masuria', in union no.11 of Mahishadal Thana. All male members of these villages were arrested under police custody and forces committed raped on a total of 46 helpless women in broad daylight, some of whom were Gang raped. (62) On 10thJanuary, 1943, the Police of Tamluk, Sutahata, Mahishadal and Geokhali, along with six hundred soldiers were arrested the five hundred villagers and caned them. (63)

Police Atrocities:

Gandhiji had said that the British Government had unleashed ''leonine violence" to suppress the spontaneous uprising of the people of India in August Movement, 1942, as well as Midnapore District. In this district, indiscriminate firing on unarmed people with the intention of killing them, the most nefarious action of the police had been physically torture, molestation and rape on helpless women, in some cases in a preplanned and well organized manner unthinkable in a civilized society, as incident on 9th January, 1943. Also, police were raids in any household to looting and plundering of properties, some cases they also raided wealthy households. Even day of the great cyclone and tidal bore on 16th October, 1942 the police had gleefully burnt down houses by sprinkling kerosene and petrol. In some cases houses were locked from outside before setting it on fire and domestic animals and household pets were burnt alive. (64)

Dissolved:

Mahatma Gandhi's statements, published in the newspaper of the 29th July and 6th August, 1944, gave the sub-divisional workers a new light as it terms of suspending the movement. Barada Kanta Kuiti, the

fourth 'Sarbadhinayaka' of the Parallel Government, ordered to dissolve the "Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar'' on 8th August, 1944 and he was arrested on 9th August, 1944. Sushil Kumar Dhara, secretary of the Congress Committee, by a statement announced the cessation of activities of "Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar" from 1st September, 1944. The 'Thana Jatiya Sarkar' organizations and 'Bidyut Bahini' also stood dissolved. (65) More than one thousand workers had courted arrest during the few days between 9thAugust to 29thSeptember, 1944. (66)

Conclusion:

The open rebellion of 1942 was perhaps the only example showing that Indians fought the British en mass in the absence of top congress leadership. It is also true that Gandhi's 'do or die' call acted miraculously and people joined the August revolution spontaneously illustrating peoples' desire to associate with a movement which would force the British to Quit India. Although the Midnapore Congress launched the movement in response to the 8th August Quit India resolution, the continuity of the rebellion for almost two years despite severe police and military torture indicates the role of the local people irrespective of caste and class in sustaining the anti-British sentiment.

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