

TRIBAL MOVEMENT: INTRODUCTION(part-1)

M.A.(HISTORY) SEM-4 PAPER ELECTIVE COURSE(EC):1

MD. NEYAZ HUSSAIN
PROFESSOR & HOD
PG DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MAHARAJA COLLEGE
VKSU, ARA (BIHAR)

INTRODUCTION (परिचय)

- ▶ Numerous uprisings of tribals have taken place in India in the 19th and 20th century. The important tribes involved in revolt in the nineteenth century were Mizos (1810), Kols (1795 and 1831), Mundas (1889), Daflas (1875), Khasi and Garo (1829), Kacharis (1839), Santhals (1853), Muria Gonds (1886), Nagas (1844 and 1879), Bhuiyas (1868) and Kondh.

INTRODUCTION (परिचय)

- ▶ Some scholars like Desai (1979), Gough (1974) and Guha (1983) have treated tribal movements after independence as peasant movements, but K.S. Singh (1985) has criticized such approach because of the nature of tribals' social and political organization, their relative social isolation from the mainstream, their leadership pattern and the modus operandi of their political mobilization.

INTRODUCTION (परिचय)

- ▶ Tribals' community consciousness is strong. Tribal movements were not only agrarian but also forest-based. Some revolts were ethnic in nature as these were directed against zamindars, moneylenders and petty government officials who were not only their exploiters but aliens too.
- ▶ When tribals were unable to pay their loan or the interest thereon, money-lenders and landlords usurped their lands. The tribals thus became tenants on their own land and sometimes even bonded labourers.

INTRODUCTION (परिचय)

- ▶ The police and the revenue officers never helped them. On the contrary, they also used the tribals for personal and government work without any payment.
- ▶ The courts were not only ignorant of the tribal agrarian system and customs but also were unaware of the plight of the tribals. All these factors of land alienation, usurpation, forced labour,

INTRODUCTION (परिचय)

minimum wages, and land grabbing compelled many tribes like Munda, Santhals, Kol, Bhils, Warli, etc., in many regions like Assam, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Maharashtra to revolt.

- ▶ The management of forests also led some tribes to revolt, as forests in some regions are the main sources of their livelihood. The British government had introduced certain legislations permitting merchants and contractors to cut the forests.

INTRODUCTION (परिचय)

- ▶ These rules not only deprived the tribals of several forest products but also made them victims of harassment by the forest officials. This led tribes in Andhra Pradesh and some other areas to launch movements.
- ▶ Raghavaiah in his analysis in 1971 of tribal revolts from 1778 to 1970 listed 70 revolts and gave their chronology. The Anthropological Survey of India in their survey in 1976 of tribal movements identified 36 on-going tribal movements in India.

(To be continued)