

Introduction

At the very outset, it should be pointed out that the major portion of this dissertation is based on primary sources (mainly recently released I.N.A. files), which explains the technical nature of this work in many respects in the form of compilation and citation of records, documents, diary reports, ledger book keeping etc. Side by side this data based and informative technical treatment, there is also a narrative and analytical treatment of the subject-matter in some respects with reference to the primary sources as well as published secondary source materials. The subject matter of this dissertation is an entirely novel, original and innovative approach to study an hitherto untouched aspect of the administrative history of the I.N.A. movement. So far there has been studies only on the political and military aspects of the history of the I.N.A. and none on administrative history, barring a very few scattered and fragmentary writings on the latter. This entitles the work to its claim for the Ph.D. degree in the discipline of social sciences. In fact the paradigm adopted by this project is related to the multi-disciplinary analytical construction covering historical, administrative, military and legal aspects. It should also be noted that the title of this dissertation is highly suggestive. The focus of the subject-matter is on the administration of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind but at the same time it throws light on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as the architect of this government, in fact, of the I.N.A. movement leading to the establishment of the Azad Hind Government. It is he who conceived, planned and executed the whole set up of the Azad Hind government both civil and military administration. It is on this foundation, that Netaji launched and carried out the unforgettable saga of the second I.N.A. movement or the second National War of Independence for his country's liberation from foreign rule. He played the main role in this unique military experiment related to civil and military administration of an insurgent government. It is he who as the Head of this government fortified the basis and structure of

the government by fulfilling all the prerequisites for the formation of a full-fledged lawful government under international law. He left no stone unturned to overcome the multiple problems and challenges financial, military and diplomatic, related both to the home affairs and foreign policy of the Azad Hind Government to maintain peace within the ambit of the I.N.A. government, as well as to wage war – the I.N.A. war against the Anglo-American Allies to free India from British bondage. Thus the pivot of this history of the Azad Hind government is the crucial role of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, without whom, without whose ideas and activities, the whole scheme of such a unique form of government would not have materialized. Hence before proceeding to discuss the various aspects of the I.N.A. administration, it is necessary to study the basic ideas of Bose as well as his political and military background, and this has been discussed as the background in the opening chapter of this work.

Against this background, the character, objectives and locus standii of the Azad Hind Government have been analysed, with a detailed account of its civil and military administration with reference to the recently released I.N.A. files, in the subsequent chapters. A separate chapter has also been devoted to make a comparative study between, on the one hand Netaji's liberation struggle in Europe : the Free India Centre and the Indian Legion in Germany – how they were formed by Bose and their character, objectives and activities – and the I.N.A. movement in East Asia under his leadership on the other – since there were some common features between the two. The similarities as well as the dissimilarities between the two have been highlighted, and it has been clearly established that the one was complementary to the other on the ultimate road to India's freedom. This is for the first time that such a comparative study between the two movements has been done.

It should be remembered in this connection, that although Netaji was the architect and Head of the Azad Hind Government and the supreme commander of the Azad Hind Fauj, the life and soul of the I.N.A. movement which was under his absolute control, he

had yet no personal motivation behind it, no power lust or vested interest. His only objective and consuming passion was his country's independence. He was out and out a nationalist and the whole I.N.A. movement under his leadership was determined and guided by nationalist objectives, and this national liberation movement was a straight fight between his patriotism and British imperialism.

* * * * *