

**CHAPTER - II (contd.)****Section II****The Rule of Maharaja Jitendra Narayana (16th September, 1913 - 21st December, 1922)**

It has already been mentioned that Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan died on the first September, 1913 in England,<sup>1</sup> Maharaj Kumar Jitendra Narayan as the eldest of three surviving brothers, succeeded him as the Maharaja of Cooch Behar.<sup>2</sup> His Succession was confirmed by the Government of India on the 3rd September, 1913.<sup>3</sup>

Jitendra Narayana was born on the 20th December, 1886 in Calcutta<sup>4</sup> when RaJ Rajendra Narayan was four years old.<sup>5</sup> Jitendra Narayana was first educated at home.<sup>6</sup> Then he received education at Darjeeling St. Paul School.<sup>7</sup> Afterwards he accompanied his father to England in May, 1898 and joined the Preparatory School at Farnborough. After the completion of the study at Farnborough he entered Eton in 1899 where he continued his studies till 1904. On his return to India in 1905 he joined the Imperial Cadet Corps at Dehradun and stayed there till the end of 1907, and received military education there as a Maharaj Kumar.<sup>8</sup>

Jitendra Narayana visited England in 1911 and attended His Majesty King George's Coronation as an Honorary A.D.C. to his father, Maharaja Nripendra Narayan. He was also present at the Coronation Durbar at Delhi in December 1911, and was presented on each of these occasions with Coronation Medals.<sup>9</sup>

Jitendra Narayana visited England again for a few months in 1913. During his stay there he married Princess Indira Gaekwar, the only daughter of the Maharaja Sayaji Rao, Gaekwar of Baroda on the 25th August 1913.<sup>10</sup> The Marriage ceremonies, civil and religious, took place at the Buckingham Palace Hotel and the Registrar's office.<sup>11</sup> The Gaekwars, Indira Devi's parents were Hindus and Jitendra Narayan's family was Brahma<sup>12</sup> Moreover, The Cooch Behar royal family was westernised and unorthodox in a way of which the Princess's austere parents strongly disapproved on early occasion. But ultimately they relented because of their strong emotional attachment for each other.<sup>13</sup>

Indira Devi was one of the first Indian princess to go to school and to graduate from Baroda College. She also accompanied her parents on their trips to England. The Maharani Sunity Devi praised Indira, her daughter-in-law, in the following words, "Indira is very clever and very pretty. She knows several languages and has travelled a great deal; for years I had been wanting her to be my daughter-in-law, and I was as fond of her as of my own daughter."<sup>14</sup>

Succession to the throne : A few days after Jitendra Narayana's marriage, as already has been mentioned, the Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayana died at Cromer in England on the first September, 1913. Jitendra Narayana, being the eldest surviving brother of the late Maharaja, succeeded to the throne of Cooch Behar.<sup>15</sup> The succession of

the new Maharaja to the throne was recognised by the Government of India and it was proclaimed throughout the state on the 16th September, 1913.<sup>16</sup> The following proclamation of the State Council was read in England by Mr. Collin, Superintendent of the State and in Bengali by Babu Priya Nath Ghosh, Dewan of the State : "whereas by the demise on Monday, the First of September, 1913 of the late Maharaja, His Highness Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur of blessed and glorious memory, the Gadi of Cooch Behar has devolved upon His late Highness's next brother Maharaj Kumar Jitendranarayana whom the Government of India have recognised as rightfully entitled to the same, the State Council of Cooch Behar do now hereby publish and proclaim that Maharaj Kumar Jitendra Narayana has become the only and rightful Maharaja of Cooch Behar as His Highness Maharaja Jitendra Narayana Bhup Bahadur, and humbly beseech Almighty God to bless him with long and happy years to rule over his subjects."<sup>17</sup>

The 16th September, 1913 was observed as a public holiday throughout the State in honour of the occasion.<sup>18</sup> The State Council cabled their congratulations to the Maharaja Jitendra Narayan.<sup>19</sup> The Government of Bengal also congratulated the Maharaja on succession to Cooch Bihar state with sanctions of the Government of India.<sup>20</sup> Jitendra Narayan arrived Cooch Behar on the 5th November, 1913 and was accorded a public reception.<sup>21</sup> In accordance with the custom of the Cooch Behar Raj, 100 gold and 1002 silver coins were struck in the name of the new Maharaja to mark the occasion of the Maharaja's accession to the Gadi.<sup>22</sup>

His Excellency Lord Carmichael, Governor of Bengal, arrived in Cooch Behar in the morning on the 17th November, 1913 on the occasion of installation and was accorded a most warm and loyal reception. Two "Installation Durbars" were held in the Durbar Hall, on the 17th November, 1913 and the other on the 19th November, 1913.<sup>23</sup> First "Installation Durbar" was held at 4 p.m. on the 17th November, 1913. There was a large crowd of Durbaries. The principal officers of the State, and the members of the Legislative Council were accommodated on the right and left of the dais. When His Excellency and the Maharaja had taken their places His Excellency rose, and addressing the Durbaries announced that Lord Hardinge, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, having recognised the Maharaja Jitendra Narayan as chief of the Cooch Behar State, it was his solemn duty as Governor of the Presidency of Fort William, in Bengal, to instal the Maharaja in the high position held till his lamented death, by the late Maharaja Raj Rajendra narayan and to transfer formally to the personal rule of the Maharaja Jitendra Narayan the State of Cooch Behar.<sup>24</sup>

Turning to the Maharaja His Excellency then addressed him by saying that he grieved over the untimely death of the Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayana and recollected the late Maharaja's warm friendship and charming personality. The Governor also mentioned the good work done by the late Maharaja Nripendra Narayana, which the new Maharaja's brother carried on with an ardent loyalty to his father's memory and with a sincere desire to carry out his father's wishes. The Governor concluded his speech with the following words, "I congratulate you upon your

accession to your principality. More than half a million of human souls are today committed to your trust ..... May you continue their good work. May you act upto your traditions. May you be faithful to your trust, so that it comes to you in the common fate to lay down your power, Indians and Englishmen alike shall rejoice even while, they sorrow, as I both rejoice and sorrow to-day, in the knowledge that you have earned the commendation of your own conscience and the gratitude of posterity."<sup>25</sup>

The Governor then taking the Maharaja by the hand installed him on the Gadi. His Highness took his seat and the band played the National Anthem of the Cooch Behar State and the Durbar waited till the salute of 13 guns had been fired.<sup>26</sup> The Maharaja Jitendra Narayan addressed the Governor in the following words, " Your Excellency, since Your Excellency visited Cooch Behar in April last, the sad and untimely death of my dear brother has called me to fill his place."

"I fully realise the magnitude of the responsibility which will for the future rest upon my shoulders and the difficulties which will beset my path in the proper discharge of my duties and the administration of the State for the benefit of my people. But to assist me I have the great example of my illustrious father whose footsteps I pray that I may be given the strength to follow, so that I may consecrate my life to the service of my State." He also added that "...his family had in the past been ever loyal to the British throne and he would beg His Excellency to convey the assurance of his devoted loyalty to the person of His Majesty King Emperor and to his Government in India..."<sup>27</sup>

"In conclusion I can assure Your Excellency that I thoroughly appreciate the great honour. You have done me in undertaking a long and tiring journey for the purpose of installing me on the Gadi of my ancestors." At the conclusion of the Maharaja's address, the Chief Secretary stepped forward and handed to the Governor, on a blue plush cushion, the Khillat, a beautiful diamond ring, which the Governor placed on the Maharaja's finger.<sup>28</sup>

The second Installation Durbar was held on the 19th November, 1913, where Nuzzars were presented to the Maharaja by his officers and subjects. On this occasion Maharaja Jitendra Narayan issued a proclamation in which he announced that the system of administration established during the time of his father under which the state had made satisfactory progress would be continued with such modifications as from time to time he might deem necessary for the welfare of his people. The gradual development of the representative institutions such as the Legislative Council and Municipal Bodies was the Maharaja's earnest desire. The question of education, sanitation and the supply of pure water would receive from him the same earnest attention as they received from his father and brother.

On the occasion of Installation the Maharaja conferred titles and privileges as a mark of personal distinction on some persons mentioned below who showed the liberality and public spirit which deserved public recognition : (a) The title of Rai Choudhury upon Babu Ishan Chandra Lahiri of Bamandanga. (b) The title of Choudhury upon Munshi

Nisabuddin of Sahebgung and Babu Ramdhan Kayet of Mathabhanga. (c) The privilege of a seat in Durbar upon Bhairab Dan Dugar and Hara Mohan Singh in appreciation of works of public utility performed by them.<sup>29</sup>

At the time of Jitendra Narayan's accession to the Gadi of Cooch Behar, the royal family consisted of his mother Dowager Maharani Sunity Devi, his wife Maharani Indira Devi, his two brothers - Maharaj Kumar Victor Nityendra Narayan and Maharaj Kumar Hitendra Narayan and his three sisters -Maharajkumari Sukriti Sundari Devi, Maharajkumari Pratibha Sundari Devi and Maharajkumari Sudhira Sundari Devi.<sup>30</sup>

Names of the leading nobles and officials at the time of accession of the Maharaja Jitendra Narayan were given below. The following was a list of the leading nobles : (i) Kumar Jatindra Narayan, uncle of Maharaja, (ii) Rai Choudhuri Tarini Charan Chakrabarti, the only Mokararidar under the state whose status was like that of Zamindars in Bengal. He was a non-official member of the Maharaja's Legislative Council. (iii) Rai Choudhuri Satish Chandra Mustafi.

Mr. E.W.Collin, Superintendent of the State, was a retired member of the Indian Civil Service. Babu Priya Nath Ghosh and Narendra Nath Sen Esq. Bar-at-Laws were the Dewan and Judge respectively. These three officers, with Maharaj Kumar Victor Nityendra Narayana were members of the State Council. There were a ten non-official members of the Legislative Council of the State appointed by the Maharaja. They were (i) Kumar Gajendranarayan (Senior) represented the Rajguns. (ii) Rai Choudhuri Tarini Charan Chakrabarty represented the Hindu Jotdars of the State. (iii) Khan Choudhuri Amanatulla Ahmed represented the Muslim Jotdars of the State. (iv) Babu Bhikan Chand Oswal represented trade and commerce and (v) Babu Satish Chandra Banerjee represented the Bar.<sup>31</sup>

Immediately after Jitendra Narayana's succession to the Gadi of Cooch Behar, the Government of India asked the Government of Bengal to report whether, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, it was advisable to place any limitations on the new Maharaja's powers, especially in connection with the payment of the late Maharaja's debts.<sup>32</sup> Lord Carmichael, the then Governor of Bengal, informed Jitendra Narayan that he would like him to promise not to alter, without consulting him, the agreement which Raj Rajendra Narayan made with him (the Governor) concerning the payment of outstanding debts, including the loan of Rs. 11 lakhs.<sup>33</sup> The Maharaja replied that he solemnly promised to the governor not to alter above agreement concerning repayment of outstanding debts without his advice.<sup>34</sup> After receiving the Maharaja's reply the Government of Bengal intimated the Government of India that so far as debts were concerned the Governor in Council was satisfied with the Maharaja's solemn promise and did not consider further restriction necessary.<sup>35</sup>

It was during the reign of Jitendra Narayan that on the recommendation of the Bengal Government, the Viceroy had been pleased, as already mentioned, to extend the privilege of a return visit from His Excellency to the

Chief of Cooch Behar,<sup>36</sup> subject to the usual condition that the Maharaja continued to deserve this additional mark of favour.<sup>37</sup> Jitendra Narayan expressed his gratitude to the Governor of Bengal for the trouble he had taken in obtaining the great privilege for him. The Maharaja also requested the Governor to convey his grateful thanks to the Viceroy for the privilege which had been granted to him and his successors, a privilege which he would endeavour to deserve by his continued loyalty to the person of His Majesty the King-Emperor and to his Government in India.<sup>38</sup>

The death of Babu Priya Nath Ghosh, Dewan of the State occurred on the 9th January, 1915.<sup>39</sup> Mr. Narendra Nath Sen Civil and Sessions Judge of the State, was appointed Dewan of the State with effect from the 11th January 1915. He also continued to be a member of the State Council.<sup>40</sup>

Modifications in the Constitution of the Councils : Jitendranarayan desired certain modifications in the constitution of the State Council and passed the orders accordingly on the 23rd January, 1915 for modification of the Memoranda of Administration of 1883 and 1891. As per the order (a) in future until further orders the functions of the Judicial Member of Council would be exercised by the Dewan, and the Civil and Session Judge of the the State would not be a member of the Council. (b) The judicial side of the Council would ordinarily in all cases consist of two Members, any difference of opinion between them being referred to a Full Bench consisting of all the Members with the Maharaja as President. (c) Appeals pending in the State Council from the judgements and decrees passed by Mr. Narendra Nath Sen as Civil and Sessions Judge would be decided by at least two members of the Council of whom the Vice-president would be one. (d) Revenue appeals from the decisions of the Dewan would henceforth be similarly decided. (e) In the absence of the President questions that lied within the powers of the Excutive Council might be disposed of by the two regular Members, any difference of opinion being referred to His Highness for decision.<sup>41</sup>

In the same year the Maharaja issued another order announcing that Maharaj Kumars Victor Nityendra Narayan and Hitendra Narayan should, henceforth, have the privilege of possessing the following insignia : (i) One horse with Donka, (ii) Two sowars (iii) One flag bearer (iv) One Khasbarder (v) One Bhaplabarder (vi) One gold Ashabarder (vii) One gold Ballambarder (viii) One gold chamardhara (ix) Sixteen with a Havildar. The Maharaja was further pleased to order that on the occasions of their public arrival at, and public departure from Cooch Behar, the Dewan, the Fouzdari Ahilkar, the Secretary to the Maharaja, the Superintendent of Police and an Aide-de-camp would, as the occasion required, receive or bid them farewell at the Railway station.<sup>42</sup>

Settlement of Boundary Disputes : The question of the relaying of the boundary between the Cooch Behar State and the British territory in the district of Rangpur arose during the reign of Jitendra Narayan. The Collector of Rangpur reported that a Traverser, Babu Devendra Chandra Dey, was deputed by the Assistant Superintendent of Survey, Eastern Bengal and Assam in 1911, to relay the boundary between the Cooch Behar State and the district of

Rangpur contiguous to Kismats Chatnai and Balapara. The demarcation of the boundary was complete by the Officer-in-Charge, Assam Traverse section and a copy of map with traverse data was received from that office on the 18th September, 1911. According to this demarcation 574 bighas, 7 kattas and 14 dhurs of land were taken from Cooch Behar State and allotted to estate No : 525 of the Rangpur Collectorate, whilst 64 bighas, 4 kattas and 15 dhurs formerly belonging to estate No 525 were found to belong to the Cooch Behar State. Possession of these two areas was respectively, made over and taken by the Collector on the 15th December, 1912. Subsequently a charcha settlement of the lands received from Cooch Behar was carried out by Babu A.C.Chatterjee, Deputy Collector who submitted his report in the beginning of April 1914.<sup>43</sup> The Cooch Behar authorities accepted the boundary as correct, signified formal acceptance of the transfer of lands in June 1914. The Maharaja in Council sanctioned the cessation of territorial jurisdiction over the lands which had been found to appertain to Chatnai in the district of Rangpur.<sup>44</sup> The Governor of Bengal in Council also confirmed in March, 1915 the boundary between Cooch Behar and the District of Rangpur as demarcated by the Officer-in-Charge, Assam Traverse section.<sup>45</sup>

With regard to the relaying of the boundary between Cooch Behar State and the District of Jalpaiguri, the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam directed its demarcation in June 1910 as ascertained by Mr. C.O.'Donel of the Survey Department. The necessity for this demarcation arose from time since the occurrence of the boundary dispute of 1895, and was finally accentuated by the advent of the major settlement operations in the district of Jalpaiguri. An early attempt to settle the disputed boundary was made by a "native surveyor" of the Deputy Commissioner's office, who demarcated the boundary shown in Mr. O'Donnel's (revenue survey) map of 1863 - 1870. The line thus demarcated by the "native surveyor" was formally accepted by the late Maharaja Nripendra Narayana in September, 1899 and by the Government of Bengal in January, 1900.<sup>46</sup>

Subsequently on the work of the "native surveyor" being tested with the initial approval on the Government of Bengal and the Cooch Behar State some mistakes were detected by Mr. C.O.'Donel and accordingly as stated above, in June 1910 a revised line as laid down by Mr.C.O'Donel was, with the concurrence of the Cooch Behar State, ordered to be relaid. Mr. D.J.Hart of the Survey Department, being entrusted with the work, commenced operations on the 14th February, 1914 and completed them on the 20th March, 1914 under the supervision of Mr. J.A.Milligan, Settlement Officer of Jalpaiguri.<sup>47</sup> The Maharaja Jitendra narayan in Council accepted the newly relaid boundary between Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri as demarcated by Mr. O.J.Hart, in November 1914.<sup>48</sup> The Government of Bengal also confirmed it in April, 1915.<sup>49</sup> It was reported that 68 jotes were affected by the change of boundary and that while Cooch Behar lost an area of 335 acres, there was a gain of 520 acres, making a net gain to Cooch Behar of 185 acres.<sup>50</sup>

Regarding the demarcation of the boundary between Taluk Mohismari in the Cooch Behar State and Talook

Sibram, Chakla Kajirhat, in the Jalpaiguri district, the Cooch Behar Durbar accepted the proposal of the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division in August 1915 that the line of boundary laid down by the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Beckett, in 1872 would be relaid and permanently marked by pillars.<sup>51</sup> This proposal was also accepted by the Government of Bengal in November, 1915. It was also decided that the estimated cost of the work amounting to Rs. 4,000 would be paid by the Government and the Cooch Behar Durbar in equal shares.<sup>52</sup>

Another dispute relating to the boundary between the Cooch Behar State and the district of Goalpara in Assam arose during this period. The Cooch Behar Durbar requested the Government of Bengal in June, 1919 to appoint Major F.C.Hirst, Director of the Survey Department, Bengal as the Cooch Behar representative in the joint commission appointed to settle this boundary dispute.<sup>53</sup> Accordingly, the Government of Bengal reported on the 2nd August, 1919 that Mr. Major Hirst had been placed on deputation for a period of four months and a half with effect from the 10th December, 1919 to deal with the boundary between the Cooch Behar State and the District of Goalpara as a representative of the Cooch Behar. A Meeting was convened to discuss the preliminaries to the settlement of the Goalpara-Cooch Behar boundary on the 26th August, 1919 at Dhubri. Lieutenant Colonel A. Playfair, Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara, Major F.C.Hirst, Representative of Cooch Behar, Mr. C.A.O'Donnell, Survey of India, Babu Dwijesh Chandra Chakrabarti, Representative, Gauripur were present at the meeting. There it was proposed, as a preliminary step that (a) The boundary between the Cooch Behar and the Gauripur Estate (Ghurla) would, as far as possible, be the line of possession, but where the line of possession departed materially from Renny's line, the boundary would be adjusted as necessary as possible in terms of Renny's line. (b) Apart from general line of boundary there were places where certain disputes existed. These must be settled on their merits. They would be dealt with after local inquiry, and the boundary fixed according to Renny's line. (c) It was suggested by Major Hirst that boundary might be simplified by straightening it out and either party ceding small strips of land to the other in order to effect this simplification. (d) With regard to boundary between Cooch Behar and Guma Mauza, the alternatives for relaying the boundary appeared to be - (i) The Cooch Behar Revenue Survey 1867-1869, (ii) The Goalpara Revenue Survey, 1867-68 (iii) Actual possession.<sup>55</sup>

The proceedings of the said meeting had been carefully considered and fully discussed, by the Maharaja of Cooch Behar in Council. The Cooch Behar Durbar requested the Deputy Commissioner in October 1919 to ascertain the views of the Assam Government on the above points and communicate them to the Maharaja.<sup>56</sup> In March, 1920 the Assam Government informed the Cooch Behar Durbar that they had accepted the proposals of the conference with a slight modification. They held that there would not be any deliberate straightening of the boundary. In the event of Col.Playfair and Major Hirst differing on any point, the Chief Commissioner of Assam would be prepared to accept the decision of any arbitrator whom they nominated.<sup>57</sup>

The First World War and the Role of the Princely State of Cooch Behar : A definite pattern of the Government of India's relationship with the native states had been developed by the time the First World War broke out in August, 1914. The Princes rallied to fight for the Empire offering both their personal services and the resources of their states.<sup>58</sup> During that war the Princes went all out to prove their loyalty to the British Crown. Not only did they subscribe lavishly to the British war effort in men and money, but many of them even fought in the Middle East and European theatres of war.<sup>59</sup> For instance, the rulers of Bikaner, Nawanagar, Akalkot and Loharu spent time at the battlefield as well. The states like Bikaner, Nawanagar, Sangli, Rewa gave generously of money and munitions. At the same time the rulers helped out on the propaganda front, lending their names to recruitment drives and weighing in on the government's side against elements opposed to the war on ideological grounds. Ian Copland has rightly said that "the war of 1914-18 showed that they (the states) had the resources and expertise to make a valuable imperial contribution also at the all-India and even at the international; level."<sup>60</sup> "Their contribution to the war effort," S.R. Ashton also remarked, "had established them securely as Britain's principal allies."<sup>60\*</sup>

The Cooch Behar state did not remain unaffected by the First World War. On the outbreak of this war the Maharaja Jitendra Narayan at once consulted the Governor of Bengal with regard to the assistance which could be given personally and by the State. <sup>61</sup> The Maharaja sent a telegram on the 12th August, 1914 to the Governor with the following words. "In continuation of my letter and telegram will you kindly convey through His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General my deep and steadfast loyalty and devotion to the throne and person of His Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor and allow me to place unreservedly my own personal services and those of my two brothers as also such resources as my state possesses at the disposal of Government."

The Governor, in return, sent his warmest thanks to the Maharaja for his message of loyalty and for the offer of his own and his brothers' services and the resources of his state. He also informed the Maharaja that his telegram would be communicated to the Viceroy.<sup>62</sup>

The Maharaja Jitendra Narayana received the gracious message from His Majesty the King-Emperor to the Princes and people of India on the 19th September, 1914. His Majesty also mentioned that nothing had moved him more than the passionate devotion to his throne expressed both by his Indian and English subjects and by Feudatory Princes and Ruling Chiefs of India and their prodigious offers of their lives and their resources in the cause of the realm. His majesty concluded his message by the following words, "I recall to my Indians' gracious message to the British nation of good will and fellowship which greeted my return in February 1912 after the solemn ceremony of my Coronation Durbar at Delhi and I find in this hour of trial a full harvest and a noble fulfilment of the assurance given by you that the destinies of Great Britain and India are indissolubly linked."<sup>63</sup>

As regards the offer of the Maharaj Jitendra Narayan's own personal services and those of his two brothers, the Government of India accepted the offer of the Maharaja's youngest brother Maharaja Kumar Hitendra Narayan to serve with the army in Europe. The Government of India issued a Press Communique in which it was announced that "His Excellency the Viceroy had been pleased to accept the patriotic offer of Maharaja Kumar Hitendra Narayana of Cooch Behar to place his personal services at the disposal of His Majesty the King Emperor. The Maharaj Kumar has been selected to serve on the personal staff of the General Officer commanding one of the Brigades of the Indian Expeditionary Force."<sup>64</sup>

Maharaj Kumar Hitendra Narayana left the front on Military Service in October, 1914 and was employed as Staff Officer in France. He received the distinction of being mentioned in Despatches for good services in connection with the attack on Neuve Chapelle in March, 1915.<sup>65</sup> He returned to Cooch Behar in December, 1915 and was accorded an enthusiastic public reception.<sup>66</sup> The sum of Rs. 5,88,813/- was sanctioned for the outfit and expenses incurred in connection with the departure on Military Services of Maharaj Kumar Hitendra Narayana.<sup>67</sup> It should be mentioned that the Maharaj Kumar had been appointed as Military Secretary to Maharaja Jitendra Narayan with effect from the 8th December, 1914.<sup>68</sup>

Apart from the offer of his youngest brother's personal services the Maharaja Jitendra Narayan sanctioned Rs. 10,000/- for payment to the Bengal Branch of the Imperial War Fund, and later in 1915 a number of large tents were given to the Government for use in hospital work in Europe. He also contributed the sum of Rs. 10,000/- to the Bengal Ambulance Corps.<sup>69</sup>

During the First World War a Conference of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs was held at Delhi on the 30th, October, 1916. The Maharaja Jitendra Narayan participated in that conference. At the opening of the conference the Viceroy said in his speech that the Indian Princes had stood forth as true "pillars of the Empire" in this war and by offering both personal services in the field and lavish contributions in men, money and material they had earned for themselves a place in the hearts of the British people which would remain for all time. The Viceroy was also glad to mention that the value of the work rendered in the field by the Imperial Service Troops had been recognised by the declaration, recently communicated to him of their eligibility for the Victoria Cross.<sup>70</sup> In recognition of his assistance and co-operation during this war Maharaja Jitendra Narayan was invested with the insignia of the Knight Commander of the most exalted order of the Star of India on the first January, 1917.<sup>71</sup>

The First World War having terminated in the triumph of the Allies, the treaty of peace with Germany was signed on the 28th June, 1919. The 19th July, 1919 was, under the Maharaja Jitendra Narayan's orders cabled from London, observed throughout the state as a holiday. The peace celebrations for which the Maharaja sanctioned Rs.

5,000 were held in December 1919, throughout the State.<sup>72</sup> In conformity with the suggestion of the Government of India Medallions marking the conclusion of the war were presented to the school children of the state on the 10th February, 1921. The Maharaja Jitendra Narayan had sanctioned a provision of Rs. 2,000/- being made in the Revised Budget for the year 1919-1920 for the supply of 14,854 medallions for presentation to school children in Cooch Behar.<sup>73</sup>

The organisation of the war effort involved, as a whole, closer co-ordination of administrative activity in the States as well as in the provinces. Lord Hardinge and his successor Lord Chelmsford, held periodical conferences of the leading rulers with a view to furthering the war effort. A few of the leading rulers welcomed this new development and stressed the essential identity of interests between the two halves of India. They also hoped that what had become an annual conference would develop into a permanent council.<sup>74</sup>

During the war time the minority issue was another significant development in which the role of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar cannot be minimized. This issue became the most important part of Hardinge's Viceroyalty as far as the states were concerned.<sup>75</sup> In December, 1915, Scindia informed the Viceroy that the political officers had used minority periods to remove long standing abuses and improve the finances of the states, but also their methods had shaken the adherence of the people to their traditional customs and ways." So he considered that minorities had worked to alter the ties of personal loyalty and obedience between the subjects and their princes when the latter ascended the throne.<sup>76</sup> Hardinge felt these complaints were not entirely groundless and considered that a transparent British policy was required in order to allay the suspicion in the minds of the princes but also lay down principles for the future guidances of the Government.<sup>77</sup> That is why he appointed a committee consisting of the Maharajas of Bikaner and Gwalior, the Begum of Bhopal, John Wood, the Political Secretary of Foreign and Political Department and two other political officers. The committee began to work at Delhi in February, 1916 and recorded their recommendations in a Memorandum. The most significant recommendation was that any measure introduced during a minority 'will be liable to revocation by the minor rulers at any time after he obtains his full powers.<sup>78</sup> The contents of the Memorandum were welcomed by those princes to whom it was communicated.

The minority issue was the focal point of discussion at the first session of a Conference of Ruling Princes and Chiefs held at Delhi on 30th October, 1916 . Lord Chelmsford who replaced Hardinge as Viceroy in April, 1916 presided over this session. It was attended by nine representatives from the Bombay states, six from the Punjab, eleven from Central India, ten from Rajputana , and the Maharajas of Cooch Behar, Kashmir, Baroda, Cochin and Benares.<sup>79</sup> Maharaja Jitendra Narayan participated in the deliberations on the minority issue and expressed his well-thought opinion. He was of the opinion that " it is not convenience to lay down hard and fast rules because conditions may be different in different states at different times ,... conditions may also vary in the same state, and the same rule cannot possibly apply, or may not possibly apply, to two minors of the same state." "Even if there is a Regent, " the

Maharaja felt, "it is better to have a collective body who will act as a check on the individual despotism which might arise otherwise. Another important fact, we should remember, is the personal equation which must come in as the cases arise."<sup>80</sup> Finally this conference unanimously endorsed the recent memorandum on the subject.<sup>81</sup>

Meanwhile, Mr. J.A. Miligan, I.C.S. whose services had been lent to the Cooch Behar state by the British Government, was appointed with effect from the first July, 1916 as Vice-President, State Council, in succession to Mr. E.V. Collin who retired from the service of the state, Mr. B. Ghose, Secretary to His Highness was appointed with effect from the 12th May, 1916 as a member of the State Council. Mr. N.N. Sen, Dewan of the State, acted as Vice-President State Council during the absence of Mr. E.V. Collin on his privilege leave, till he was relieved by Mr. Miligan on the 1st July, 1917. He continued to be a member of the State Council and to exercise the functions of the Judicial Member.<sup>82</sup>

It should be noted that the post of the Superintendent of the Cooch Behar State was abolished with effect from the 1st June, 1916 and his office would henceforth be styled the office of the General Department of the State, and the Vice-President of the State Council was placed in charge of that Department. As officer-in-charge of the office of the General Department of the state, he would have the charge of and control over, all the departments of which the Superintendent of the State had been in charge, and exercised all the powers and performed all the duties of the late Superintendent of the State.<sup>83</sup>

His Excellency the Governor of Bengal in Council appointed Mr. J.A. Miligan, I.C.S., Vice-President, State Council, being a European British subject, to be a Justice of the peace within the Cooch Behar State.<sup>84</sup>

Lord Ronaldshay, Governor of Bengal honoured the Cooch Behar State by his visit in February, 1918. His Excellency laid the foundation stone of a ward at the Sudder hospital on the 10th February, 1918, and allowed it to be associated with his name.<sup>85</sup> In December of the same year Lord Chelmsford, Viceroy and Governor-General of India honoured the Cooch Behar State by his visit. To mark the occasion Maharaja Jitendra Narayana sanctioned Rs. 8,000 for illumination and decoration of the town of Cooch Behar. He also provided a certain amount of rupees for laying the foundation stone of Chelmsford Ward in the Sudder Dispensary.<sup>86</sup>

National movement in India and its impact and Formation of the Chamber of Princes :- During the First World War the tide of national aspirations was rising fast throughout the country. Though the Congress as the popular organisation had not yet resorted to any mass movements under Gandhiji's leadership, but it was slowly cutting itself loose from the leadership of the moderates. The emergence of leaders like Tilak broadened the hold of the organisation upon the people at large. The Congress had helped the British during the War with a hope that the British Government would introduce some reforms for the Indians. The British Government recognised that the situation needed new

handling and that there was an urgent need for a new policy. Accordingly, Edwin Samuel Montague, the Secretary of State for India, made the historic announcement on the 20th August, 1917 that "the policy of His Majesty's Government, with which the Government of India is in complete accord, is that of the increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration and the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire."<sup>87</sup>

Soon after making this announcement, Montague came to India and met with the leaders of public opinion in British India and also with several leading Princes. The Conference of Ruling Princes appointed a committee which presented a memorandum. In the summer of 1918, Montague and Chelmsford published a joint report on Indian constitutional reforms, which was of historical importance in so far as it was the first major investigation into the relations of the states with the rest of India and with the paramount power.<sup>88</sup>

The authors of the Montague-Chelmsford Report felt that the isolation of the rulers should be terminated and steps should be taken for joint consultations and discussion by them for the furtherance of their common interests. They suggested that the ad hoc conferences of rulers should be replaced by a permanent body known as the Council of Princes, which would give the rulers 'The opportunity of informing the Government as to their sentiments and wishes, of broadening their outlook and of conferring with one another and with the Government.' The Government of India consulted the Indian Princes regarding these recommendations of the Chelmsford-Montague Report. The Conference of Ruling Princes met at Delhi in January, 1919 and finally gave assent to the formation of the proposed Chamber of Princes.<sup>89</sup>

The Chamber of Princes, styled the Narendra Mandal, was brought into being by a Royal Proclamation on the 8th February, 1921 on behalf of the King Emperor George V by his uncle the Duke of Connaught, at a ceremony at the Red Fort in Delhi.<sup>90</sup> The Royal Proclamation defined its limits : "My Viceroy will take its counsel freely in matters relating to the territories of Indian states generally and in matters that affect territories jointly with British India or with the rest of my Empire. It will have no concern with the internal affairs of individual States or their rulers or with the relations of individual States with my Government, while the existing rights of these States and their freedom of action will in no way be prejudiced or impaired."<sup>91</sup> It should be noted that the Maharaja Jitendra Narayana attended the inauguration ceremony of the Chamber of Princes held, as already mentioned, at Delhi in February, 1921.<sup>92</sup>

The Chamber of Princes was a deliberative, consultative and advisory body. The membership of the Chamber was restricted to salute states of eleven guns and over which could be members in their own right and certain other states not having full powers of internal administration were represented by a system of group voting, each group having a representative member. But of 118 salute states, 108 joined the Chamber.<sup>93</sup> Since the Cooch Behar state

enjoyed dynastic salutes of 13 guns, it was one of 108 rulers who were members of the Chamber in their own right.<sup>94</sup> There were 12 additional members in the Chamber elected by the rulers of 127 non-salutes. The total membership was thus 120.<sup>95</sup>

The establishment of the Chamber of Princes, in which the rulers could voice their collective needs and aspirations, had ended the phase of isolation. The process of placing the states in direct relations with the Government of India took time to complete and was not finished until into the 1930s.<sup>96</sup> According to Barbara N. Ramusack, 'the Chamber of Princes was an innovation in British policy toward their autocratic collaborators and formally ended the earlier practice of isolation. This body would be a vehicle by which some princes could weave alliances among their peers, lobby with British officials, acquire some deliberative experience, and maintain a group status in future constitutional negotiations.'<sup>96\*</sup> However it has been pointed out that from its inception the Chamber of Princes had been unpopular as not supported by such important states as Hyderabad, Mysore and Baroda. The establishment of the Chamber signally failed to improve the administration of the princely states.<sup>97</sup> The Chamber's non-representative character has also been pointed out, because not a single state represented in the Chamber had a representative assembly on an elective basis. Therefore the views of the Chamber were merely the views of the individual Princes represented in the Chamber but they did not reflect the views of the people of the states.<sup>98</sup> Besides, the Government of India had carefully limited the Chamber's structure and functions, and princely rivalries and concern for 'izzat' had reduced its representativeness and potential effectiveness.<sup>98\*</sup> Lastly, it has also been alleged that the British had created the Chamber of Princes as a consultative body to stem the tide of growing national awakening. Its creation was a master-stroke of British diplomacy designed to serve only imperial interests. The British had brought the princes on the stage in order to make them a separate political force. This was an essential prerequisite to enable them to play the role of a counter-weight to the nationalist forces.<sup>99</sup>

The year of 1919 found India highly discontented. The introduction of Montague-Chelmsford Refoms was preceded by a tremendous national upsurge throughout the country. The Rowlatt Act, the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre and the severity of the martial law regime in Punjab had belied all the generous wartime promises of the British and had inflamed the masses generally. The Muslims were deeply agitated over the terms of the treaty of Sevres signed with Turkey in May, 1920, which made it clear that dismemberment of the Turkish Empire was complete.<sup>100</sup> Gandhiji preached the programme of non-violent Non-Co-operation not only to redress the Punjab and Khilafat wrongs but to win Swaraj.<sup>101</sup> In December, 1920 the Congress accepted Gandhiji's programme at its annual session at Nagpur, and became a revolutionary body pledged to the triple boycott of the new legislatures, the law court and educational institutions and launched mass civil disobedience all over the country with considerable success from January, 1921.<sup>102</sup>

‘The advancement of national movement in British India had an inevitable impact upon the people of the states. In the first and second decade of the twentieth century, runaway terrorists from British India seeking shelter in the states became agents of politicization. A much more powerful influence was exercised by the Non-Cooperation and Khilafat movement launched in 1920. The Congress passed a resolution at the Nagpur session in December 1920 calling upon the Princes to grant full responsible government in their states.<sup>103</sup> Simultaneously, the Congress had laid down its policy as being one of non-intervention in the internal affairs of the states<sup>104</sup> and asked its members not to initiate political activity in the states in the name of Congress but only in their individual capacity.<sup>105</sup> Nevertheless the Non-Co-operation Movement caught the imagination of the people of the states like Cooch Behar.

As the Non-cooperation movement expanded in late 1920 and throughout 1921, the Princes spoke and acted more openly, against this movement as it increasingly threatened the internal tranquility within their states. Princely clients such as the rulers of Patiala, Nabha, Gwalior and Kolhapur acted as political allies of their British patron against the movement.<sup>105+</sup> The Non-Co-operation Movement penetrated into the territory of Cooch Behar and stirred all the sections of its people. The Movement which created an environment of intense commotion and unrest throughout the state became a concern to the authorities.<sup>106</sup> In this volatile political situation Maharaja Jitendra Narayan summoned a meeting of the State Council on the 31st January, 1922 and passed a resolution in which the following precautionary measures were adopted to check the spread of the movement : (i) The Maharaja deemed it advisable to issue for the guidance of his officers certain instructions regarding the Non-Co-operation movement and in view of the fact that the neighbouring British Districts of Rangpur and Goalpara were seriously affected by this movement, precautionary measures appeared to be necessary. (ii) His Highness did not propose to review the argument for or against Non-Co-operation, "but it is sufficient to observe that the movement have no 'raison d'etre' in Cooch Behar where 'Swaraj' has long been an established fact". (iii) While picketing of the liquor shops was unobjectionable, but the use of violence to enforce total abstinence from intoxicating liquors or drugs was not to be allowed. (iv) The wearing of Khaddar cloth was entirely unobjectionable but the use of Gandhi Caps by the Maharaja's servants was prohibited as tending to indicate the existence in the state of an authority other than His Highness. (v) If any outsiders' visit to the state and their actions tended to stir up a political agitation within the state, they were to be removed from the state. (vi) 'Hartals' were not to be allowed and the holding of political meetings would be carefully watched.<sup>107</sup>

‘The Non-Co-operation movement stirred the minds of the students of the Victoria College. Maharaja Jitendra Narayana addressing the students at the College on the 24th March, 1921, spoke that he had learnt about the students' participation in the Non-Co-operation Movement, and most of the troubles which arose was at the instigation of the students who came from the British districts in Bengal. The Maharaja said that if these students did not like the system of education introduced by him, there was nothing to prevent them from going elsewhere to seek the system to their choice.<sup>108</sup>

The Maharaja made precautionary arrangements against the movements not only in the Cooch Behar but also in his largest Zamindari at Debigunj in the Jalpaiguri District. He visited Debigunj and at a Durbar held there on the 3rd February, 1922, announced that as he was one of the largest Zamindaries in this part of the province, he could not maintain an altogether neutral attitude towards the Non-Co-operation Movement. He admitted that the movement had caused a general feeling of unrest and this had somehow spread even to the agricultural community. He also observed that his officials refused to give that assistance to the authorities which they were legally bound to do so. The Maharaja cautioned his officials not to either passively or actively support any activity; otherwise the most stringent measures would be taken against them.<sup>109</sup>

In order to stamp out the movement in the territory of Cooch Behar, the State Council further issued an order on the 8th June, 1922, proclaiming that the activities of the political volunteers, viz, publicity of the use of swadeshi goods, picketing, no revenue, no rent programme etc. were illegal; The State Government had no sympathy or relation with such activities of the volunteers; The State Government advised the people not to keep any relation with or to help them in any way and also requested them to inform the police station about the illegal activities of the volunteers.<sup>110</sup>

∟ In spite of all the repressive arrangements and orders, the Non-Co-operation movement spread to the rural areas of Cooch Behar. The rural market places or the Hats were the centers where from Gandhiji's messages spread to interior region. The people called Gandhiji as their 'Maharaja' and would obey only his orders.<sup>111</sup> Almost everywhere in the State prohibitory orders under section 144 of the I.P.C. were issued banning all political meetings. Nevertheless, the meetings were held in the country-side violating the state's prohibitory orders, and the political activists were arrested by the State Police.<sup>112</sup> The movement gripped the areas such as Sitai, Pundibari and Dinhat. The Congressmen of the neighbouring districts provided leadership to the movement in these areas.<sup>113</sup> The Sitai hat being contiguous to the Rangpur district, was more advanced in political consciousness, where during a political meeting, a clash occurred between the violent mob and the armed police, resulting in the death of several men.<sup>114</sup> After this bloody incident a politically surcharged atmosphere prevailed throughout the state. Another bloody clash between the armed policemen and the assembled masses armed with 'lathis' (bamboo sticks) at the Pundibari hat could only be avoided by the intervention of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan who himself came over this hat at the right moment to pacify the agitated masses.<sup>115</sup> The state authorities held that the crime figures for the year of 1922 - 1923 had increased due to the lawlessness of the Non-Co-operation movement. The movement continued until the commencement of the rains in 1922.<sup>116</sup> Even after the withdrawal of the Non-Co-operation Movement in British India in February, 1922 as a result of the Chauri Chaura incident the movement continued for several months in Cooch Behar. Maharaja Jitendra Narayan eventually succeeded in containing the movement by resorting to repressive measures.<sup>118</sup> The Maharaja issued an order on the 24th October, 1922 by which all the cases under the Criminal Procedure code and the Penal Code, that had been instituted as the result of the movement were to be dropped as against those who were the Maharaja's

subjects. As regards the accused who were foreigners, the law was to take its usual course. The persons who were in jail having been convicted in similar cases, and those who had been sentenced to imprisonment and fine might be released on their signing an undertaking that they should never do such unlawful acts again. Otherwise very strongest steps would be taken against them.<sup>119</sup>

Sitesh Sanyal, the official biographer of Maharaja Jitendra Narayana, wrote in 1922 that, "The Maharaja was stern yet generous - stern when duty demanded that he ought to be so, generous - when he found that the end had been achieved. During the height of the Non-Co-operation movement with its thousand and one concomitant excuses, a movement which affected Cooch Behar not a little, it was the sternness of His Highness blended with generosity that nipped it in the bud here and killed it root and branch."<sup>120</sup> At the same time it should be borne in mind that the political movements of the states were generally weak and tended to collapse at the slightest pressure.<sup>121</sup> This was largely due to certain factors based upon the prevailing different political conditions of British India and the States. The States generally lacked civil liberties including freedom of association, the comparative political backwardness of the people, and also they were legally independent entities.<sup>122</sup>

Soon after the termination of the Non-Co-operation movement, Maharaja Jitendra Narayan issued an order on the 25th October, 1922 announcing that from the next April a new council would be constituted of which members would be elected by the Maharaja's subjects.<sup>123</sup> This order was, it is believed, intended to democratise the elitist character of the existing Council and thereby to appease the agitated people of the State. However, with the untimely death of the Maharaja the entire project did not materialise.

It is during the time of Jitendranarayan, the State Government also made an attempt to introduce "Cooch Behar State Victory Lottery" in Cooch Behar in 1919. In spite of the presence of Mr. J. A. Milligan, an I.C.S. Officer as Vice-President and Prince Victor Nityendranarayan as President in the Lottery Committee and elaborate meticulous arrangement, the lottery could not be materialised as the Government of India was reluctant to sanction the publication of advertisement of the lottery in British India. The reasons behind the refusal of granting permission for holding lottery or of publishing advertisement in British India are rather amusing. For the Government of India held that the result of such lottery would lead to gambling and other vices leading to the deterioration and ruin of many individuals and families. Hence this is objectionable both on moral and material grounds and as such are discouraged in British India.<sup>123\*</sup> It has, however, rightly been suggested that "during that volatile period of the struggle for Indian independence acquisition of huge amount as a result of holding lotteries might be proved dangerous ... for the British interest in India."<sup>123\*\*</sup>

/ Activities of Revolutionary Terrorists in Cooch Behar State : The era of revolutionary terrorism had begun in

Bengal by the end of 1907.<sup>124</sup> After the split of the Indian National Congress in December 1907 both the Moderates and Extremists failed to lead the political Indians, especially the youth and the national movement as a result temporarily receded.<sup>125</sup> The impatient youngmen of Bengal took to the path of individual heroism and revolutionary terrorism because they could not find no other way of expressing their patriotism. The official arrogance and repression, and the 'mendicancy' of the Congress Moderates, on the one hand and the Extremists' failure to give a positive lead to the people on the other, led the youth of Bengal to the 'politics of the bomb'. Very soon secret societies of revolutionaries appeared all over the country, the most famous being Anushilan Samity and Jugantar. Their activities took two forms - the assassination of oppressive officials and dacoities to raise funds for purchase of arms etc. The latter came to be popularly known as swadeshi dacoities.<sup>126</sup>

The movement of the revolutionary terrorists made its appearance in the territory of Cooch Behar. Many cadres of the revolutionary groups took shelter in Cooch Behar.<sup>127</sup> But the State authorities never entertained the revolutionaries. Like his father, Maharaja Jitendra Narayan had no sympathy with the revolutionary boys. He announced that he would do everything in his power to stamp out sedition in the State.<sup>128</sup> In fact, participation in politics in Cooch Behar invariably meant banishment from the State.<sup>129</sup>

The apathy of the Cooch Behar authorities towards the revolutionary movement has been referred to by Charu Chandra Dutta in his work "Purano Katha". Charu Chandra Dutta, the son of Kalika Das Dutta, the Dewan of Cooch Behar, lived in the state from 1908 to 1913, and developed very close links with Sri Aurobindo. In the winter of 1908 a European official of the Intelligence Branch, cautioned him not to keep any paper with him which would appear to be incriminating by the police during a possible search.<sup>130</sup> In 1909 Prince Raj Rajendra Narayan participated in a meeting held at the Caxton Hall in London in protest against the assassination of Curzon-Wylie by Madanlal Dhingra.<sup>131</sup>

When the son of a Head Master of Mathabhanga High School was arrested in Calcutta in connection with revolutionary conspiracy, the house of the Head Master was searched by the Cooch Behar Police and the British Indian Police. The Police party seized the biographies of Mazzini and Garibaldi written by Jogendra Nath Gupta and the history of Sepoy Mutiny written by Rajanikanta Gupta.<sup>132</sup>

Despite the stern attitude of the State Government, some physical cultural clubs, popular known as Akhras were established in Cooch Behar where club wielding, dagger play and sword fighting were taught.<sup>133</sup> Some libraries were established which facilitated the purpose of the revolutionaries. The Patakura Adarsha Pathagar was one such institution.<sup>134</sup> There was at least one stationary shop at Cooch Behar which had been utilised as the means for attracting students. In these shops newspapers were provided free to attract the students who visited these shops every morning.<sup>135</sup>

The Dacca Anusilan Samity had established its branch in Cooch Behar<sup>136</sup> and succeeded in enlisting members.<sup>137</sup> The Upendra Nath Barman, the veteran political figure of North Bengal, remarked in his autobiography that while studying in the Mathabhanga High School he became a member of the Anushilan Samity. The organisation at Mathabhanga was headed by Sushobhan Roy.<sup>138</sup> Satyendra Narayan Majumdar mentioned in his autobiography that while he visited Mathabhanga, his drive for recruitment of revolutionary cadres was not a complete failure because on the eve of his departure he came in contact with a man willing to join his fold.<sup>139</sup>

Anushilan Samity had established groceries in various districts of Bengal wherefrom its cadres operated. The grocery of Rajshahi was transferred to Cooch Behar in 1915 and placed under Khetra Singh and Dinesh Biswas. The Samity attempted to spread its influence over the members of armed forces and the students. Collection of arms from Bhutan was another object which was abandoned when the Samity found that Bhutanese arms were actually old fashioned match locks. Dinesh Biswas, the Anushilan cadre, was eventually arrested and banished from Cooch Behar in 1917.<sup>140</sup> After his arrest, Probhat Chakraborty, another Anushilan worker, continued the Samity's work.<sup>141</sup>

The Victoria College of Cooch Behar which<sup>142</sup> offered free education with nominal lodging charge, had attracted numerous students from Eastern Districts of Bengal. Many of these had revolutionary leanings. Among them mention may be made of Pulin Das, the leader of the Dacca Anushilan Samity and Taraknath Das, the noted revolutionary figure. Political activists like Shyam Sundar Chakraborty, Satish Chandra Dasgupta etc. were the students of Jenkins School of Cooch Behar. But none of them had any political activities of serious nature during their stay at Cooch Behar.<sup>143</sup> However, the Victoria College authorities had to initiate a confidential file for the students having revolutionary leanings<sup>144</sup> The boarders of college hostel had circulated the Sedition Committee's Report among the students with a view to rousing them.<sup>145</sup> The private boarding houses of the college students offered shelter to revolutionary activities.<sup>146</sup>

Enquiry into the Dharail dacoity which occurred in the Nator Police Station in Rajshahi district on the 20th February, 1915 revealed that the Bengal revolutionary groups had active workers in the Cooch Behar State. Three out of six revolutionary youths who were arrested in connection with this dacoity, came from the Cooch Behar State : (1) Kumud Nath Bhattacharya of Pabna who joined the Victoria College in 1914 and stayed in Chhatra Bhandar, (2) Shiva Prasad Bhaduri of Mymensingh who was a student of the first year class of the Victoria College living in Cooch Behar for about one year and (3) Khetra Mohan Singh of Tippera who was an active revolutionary organiser in Cooch Behar. Three other revolutionary youths such as Kala Chand Biswas of Pabna, Jatindra Mohan Choudhuri of Rangpur who was a Second Years Student of the Victoria College and also wrote seditious literature and Jatindra Nath Maitra of Bogra who was a Second Year Student of Victoria college, living in Santikuthir mess, belonged to the same gang

and associated together.<sup>147</sup>

Some of the revolutionaries who were involved in the Raja Bazar Bomb Case and whose names were on the cipher list, had connection with the Cooch Behar State. These revolutionaries were Satish Chandra Ghosh of Pabna living in Kalika Bazar, Cooch Behar and Matilal Roy of Dacca, formerly a student of the Victoria College from 1912 to 1913.<sup>148</sup> Besides, several members of the Bengal Revolutionary party had been reported as visiting Cooch Behar. Among them the followings are worth mentioning : (1) Prafulla Madhab Chakraborty of Dacca was formerly a Student of Victoria College and his name was found amongst the papers seized in the Raja Bazar conspiracy. (2) Mani Bhusan Gupta was connected in the Kurul dacoity in Rangpur in February, 1915. (3) Sashadhar Kar and (4) Uma Nath Chakraborty were arrested in connection with the attempted murder of the Additional Superintendent of Police, Rangpur in February, 1915 (5) Nalini Kanta Gupta was a member of Aurobinda Ghose's group at Pondichery. (6) Bhut Nath Sen alias Spider was a member of the Barishal conspiracy.<sup>149</sup>

In May, 1915 the Government of Bengal had to bring the issue of revolutionary activities of the Victoria College to Maharaja Jitendranarayan's notice for action to be taken. It was decided that for further information the British Indian Police and the State Police would work hand in hand.<sup>150</sup> The Maharaja also made it clear that he would like to take the stern action against the persons in the state indulging in revolutionary activities. The State authorities had already started a branch something like C.I.D. with this objective.<sup>151</sup>

Changes in the Constitution of the State Council and Legislative Council : After the retirement of Mr. J.A. Milligan, I.C.S., Vice-President, State Council and of Mr. N.N. Sen, Dewan of the State, in the constitution of the State Council certain changes had been effected during 1919-1920. Mr. H.J. Twynam, I.C.S., was appointed Vice-President, State Council, for a period of three years with effect from the 3rd March, 1920 and also a Justice of the Peace within the state. Babu Pramathanath Chatterjee, the Civil and Sessions Judge of the State, was appointed Judicial Member of the Council in place of Mr. N.N. Sen. Maharaj Kumar Victor Nityendra Narayan, who had resigned his extraordinary membership of the Council and Maharaj Kumar Hitendra Narayan were appointed members of the State Council during the year of 1919-1920.<sup>152</sup> Mr. B.Ghose, Secretary to the Maharaja, continued to be a member of the State Council. As regards the constitution of the Legislative Council of the State, Maharaja Jitendra Narayana reappointed, during the year of 1918-1919 Rai Choudhuri Tarini Charan Chakraborty and Khan Choudhuri Amanatullah Ahmed as additional members of the Legislative Council for a term of three years with effect from the 19th April, 1918 under Section four of the Cooch Behar Legislative Council Act II of 1909. The former represented the Hindu Jotdars of the State and the latter the Mahomadan Jotedars.<sup>154</sup> His Highness re-appointed Kumar Jatindra Narayan to be an Additional member of the Legislative Council for a period of three years with effect from the 20th November, 1919 and appointed Babu Khikan Chand Oswal and Babu Nitya Kumar Ray to be Members for a period of three years each from

the 22nd March, 1920. The first member was to represent the Rajguns, the second to represent trade and commerce, and the third to represent the Bar.<sup>155</sup>

As the Maharaja Jitendranarayan had granted permission to introduce a large number of Bills into the Legislative Council, he appointed for one year the following gentlemen to be Additional Members of the Legislative Council of the State under the above Act, with effect from the 1st April, 1920 in addition to the Additional Members already appointed : Kumar Gajendra Narayan, Rai Choudhuri Satish Chandra Mustafi, Mr. Sailendra Ghose, Fouzdari Ahilkar, Babu Jagadballav Biswas, Revenue Officer, Babu Satish Chandra Banerjee, Civil and Sessions Judge, Babu Rajendra Prasad Ray, State Pleader and Babu Binod Bihari Dutt, Pleader.<sup>156</sup>

The loss was sustained by the State Council through the death of of Maharaj Kumar Hitendra Narayan on the 7th November, 1920 at Darjeeling, who also was a member of the Legislative Council. The Maharaj Kumar Jatindra Narayan, the representative of the Rajguns in the Legislative Council of the Maharaja died on the 23rd, September, 1920.<sup>157</sup>

Under Section 2 of Act II of 1909 (Cooch Behar Legislative Council Act) the Maharaja Jitendra Narayan appointed the following gentlemen to be Additional Members of the Legislative Council of the State for a period of one year with effect from the 1st April, 1921, viz, Mr. Sailendra Ghose, Srijukta Satish Chandra Banerjee, Rai Choudhuri Satish Chandra Mustafi, Srijukta Rajendra Prasad Ray, Srijukta Surendra Kanta Basu Mazumdar and Srijukta Binod Behari Dutta. The Maharaja also appointed Kumar Gajendra Narayan (Junior) to be an Additional Member of the State Legislative Council for a period of three years from the 1st April, 1921 in place of the Late Kumar Jatindranarayan.<sup>158</sup>

The State was managed, as before his father's death, by the Maharaja Jitendranarayan with the assistance of the State Council, of which he was himself the President. The Vice-President of the Council, who was also in charge of the General Department of the State, was a member of the Indian Civil Service, whose services had been lent to the State by the British Government. In June, 1921. The other members of the State Council were Maharaj Kumar Victor Nityendra Narayan, the Maharaj's brother, the Financial Secretary to the Maharaja, the Judicial Member of the Council, the Secretary to the Maharaja and the Revenue Officer of the State. There was, as already mentioned , a Legislative Council consisting of the members of the State Council and five non-official members representing different classes and interests of the state. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division was ex-officio Political Agent for the state in respect of extradition cases.<sup>159</sup>

Under sanction of His Majesty's Secretary of the State for India, the Cooch Behar State had been placed in direct political relations with the Government of India with effect from the 15th November, 1922. His Excellency the Governor of Bengal acted as Agent to the Governor-General of India for the Cooch Behar State.<sup>160</sup>

The following memorandum, corrected upto June, 1921, contained the informations relating to the State of Cooch Behar which had direct political relations with the Government of Bengal.<sup>161</sup>

| Serial No. | Name of The State | Name, title and religion of Chief   | Date of Birth       |
|------------|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1          | 2                 | 3   | 4                   |
| 1          | Cooch Behar       | His Highness Maharaja Sir Jitendranarayan<br>Bhup Bahadur, K.C.S.I. Hindu | 20th December, 1886 |

| Date of Succession  | Area of the State (in Square Miles) | Population of State | Average Annual Revenue |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 5                   | 6                                   | 7                   | 8                      |
| 1st September, 1913 | 1,307                               | 5,92,372            | Rs. 29,67,204          |

| Average annual Expenditure | Tribute to Government | Military Forces (Regular troops) Infantry & Artillery | Military Forces (Irregular Troops) Infantry and Artillery | Salute of Chief in guns |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| 9                          | 10                    | 11  | 12  | 13                      |
| Rs. 29,63,031              | Rs. 67,700-15         | —   | 205   | 13                      |

**Outstanding Debts** :- Like his brother the late Maharaja Raj Rajendranarayan, Maharaja Jitendranarayan, had to tackle the problem of certain debts and liabilities which had seriously embarrassed the financial position of the state. The State had a burden of debts, some of which had been incurred in the past years and some in the reign of "Maharaja Jitendranarayan himself. On the death of Maharaja Nripendranarayan in September, 1911 total debts were reckoned to be as 26,70,000 of this 3,70,000 was satisfied by foreclosure. It was to pay of 17 lakhs leaving 6 lakh unpaid for the present. To meet the liabilities 5 lakhs were taken from the reserve fund, 3 lakhs from the budget and 11 lakhs were borrowed from the Allahabad Bank as already mentioned. The conditions imposed by the Government were that not less than 3½ (3.51) lakhs should be paid yearly towards principal and interest until the whole amount of the loan was liquidated.<sup>162</sup> After these arrangements were made many more liabilities came to light and in April 1919 the total outstandings were 12 lakhs in spite of apparently regular payment. The details of the actual outstandings were shown in the statement given by Mr. Twynam, Vice-President, the State-Council.<sup>163</sup>

But in June 1921, the total outstandings of the state amounted to Rs. 21,20,000.<sup>164</sup> As Rs. 3,50,000 had been provided in the budget of the year 1921-1922 to pay off the charge of debts, it had been found necessary to raise a loan of 18 lakhs of rupees to free the State from its existing debts.<sup>165</sup> Maharaja Jitendranarayan had approached the

Government as to the possibility of obtaining from the Government of India a loan to pay off his outstanding debts. Of these, the loan to the Bank of Allahabad must be paid at the beginning of April, 1922, as the Bank had threatened to foreclose their security which was Chaklajat Estates and the "Woodlands" Property.<sup>166</sup>

In view of the Maharaja's affairs in a very critical situation,<sup>167</sup> The Government of Bengal approached the Government of India in June 1921 to know whether the latter would be willing themselves to make a loan to the Maharaja.<sup>168</sup> But the Government of India, in reply, told the local Government that "as there is no financial provision for a loan at present, we should have to go to the assembly for a supplementary grant and it would be difficult to argue that there are public reasons of state for making a loan to a Prince to enable him to pay off his private debts. The Government has in the past, in dealing with proposals for loans to States, drawn as distinction between loans for private and those for public purposes; and it is more than ever necessary to observe this distinction under present conditions. For these reasons the Government of India regret that they are unable to sanction the loan to the Maharaja from Central Revenues."<sup>169</sup> Under the circumstances, the Government of Bengal proposed to the Maharaja Jitendra Narayana that he should raise a private loan to which the Government would accord its approval.<sup>170</sup> In November 1921 a loan of Rs. 18 lakhs was obtained from the Imperial Bank and outstanding liabilities were for the most part liquidated. The loan bears Interest at 1 percent, above the current bank rate with a minimum of 6 percent, per annum commission at the rate of 1 percent is payable to two guarantee Companies in respect of Rs. 9 lacs each. Repayment is to be effected in six years and the sum certified by the Chief Auditor, Eastern Bengal Railway to be due to the Maharaja Jitendra Narayan on account of the net earning of the Cooch Behar State is to be paid to the Imperial Bank and specifically applied to the reduction of the loan account. The provision under Repayment of Debt in the Annual Budget was under the Maharaja Jitendra Narayan's orders placed under the Vice President in the General Department, in whose hands was left the business connected with the service of the debt. It can be also noted that the balance of the loan account outstanding on the 31st march, 1922 amounted to Rs. 19,30,728-12-0.<sup>170\*</sup>

Conclusion : In addition to these, Maharaja Jitendra Narayana had to grapple with a situation arising out of the First World War. The great economic distress through which the world was passing, prevailed in Cooch Behar also. The Maharaja did not allow such bad economic condition to stand in the way of effecting improvements in the State, particularly in the directions of education and sanitation. The several 'surprising' buildings constructed, the several foundation-stones laid for others, the introduction of the nursing system in hospitals, the adoption of improved sanitary methods at the outbreak of epidemic diseases, the re-excavation of several tanks with a view to supplying pure drinking water, the installation of the electric and telephone systems in the town, the opening of the straight roads, the stately marble statue of the late Maharaja Nripendra Narayana all these speak to the beneficent activity of Maharaja Jitendra Narayana in making the town prettier and healthier.<sup>171</sup>

The Raj Rajendranarayana Boarding Institution at Cooch Behar and the Nripendra Narayana Memorial Hall at Darjeeling testify respectively to the fraternal and filial attachment and devotion of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan while the Maharaja's loyalty to the British King-Emperor was evinced by placing the resources of the State at the disposal of His Majesty when the great war broke out and by sending out his younger brother Maharaj Kumar Hitendra Narayan to the front. The greater infusion of native (Cooch Behari) talent into the Cooch Behar State Service, the appointment of a committee to report the educational problems, the encouragement to research work in the domains of old Bengali literature and history of Cooch Behar, particularly by placing the Ancient Bengali Manuscripts of the State Library at the disposal of the Cooch Behar Sahitya Sabha or the Literary Society which was started under his auspices and of which he was the patron, to histrionic art, to the development of industry and agriculture in the state, to the starting of Limited banking Corporations in the town, to Swadeshism by himself setting an example to others - all these testify to Maharaja Jitendra Narayan's endeavour for all round development of the State.<sup>172</sup>

Sites Chandra Sanyal held that the two most outstanding events during Jitendra Narayan's reign were two great announcements - One fixing the period of settlement for 99 years after the conclusion of the 30 years settlement granted by his father, and the other regarding the introduction of the elective system in the Legislative Council of the State. But the two announcements remained unaccomplished owing to the untimely death of Jitendra Narayan.<sup>173</sup>

Maharaja Jitendra Narayan was very fond of work. Punctual to the minute, he at once set to work. Into the detail of every question, however dry or dull, he always tried to go. No amount of work was too heavy for him and he seldom left his seat without finished the last item of business placed before him. He was always open and amenable to reason. If he was once satisfied and convinced that a certain decision required some modification, he righted the wrong then and there.<sup>174</sup>

Sunity Devi mentioned in her Autobiography that "Jit [Jitendra Narayan] has begun his work well and is doing his best to make the State prosperous. His love for his people is deep and he takes great interest in administration. He works hard and sometimes sits at his table and writes till midnight. He looks into every details himself and I often wonder how he can do so much : a boy who was never brought up as the heir .... It is hard for him that all the old officers now are either dead or retired and he has to work with new untried men, but he takes it quite coolly."<sup>175</sup> Jitendra Narayan was accessible to all. "Charo durwaza hamesha khula rahe" was his principle. "Let everyone come to me and say his say freely, so that I may learn every first hand and try to mitigate his sorrows if I can." - this was the principle that guided the Maharaja since he ascended the throne of Cooch Behar in 1913.<sup>176</sup>

Jitendra Narayan was very tall and extremely handsome. Until he fell ill he had been a fine cricketer and polo-player as well as a talented musician.<sup>177</sup> He loved Shikar no less.<sup>178</sup> He also wrote some charming poems and

dramas. Mention may be made of "Hello Darjeeling" - a one-act drama and "28th February" and "4th May" - two books of poems.<sup>179</sup>

As already mentioned, Jitendra Narayana visited England for a few months in 1913 and during his stay there married in August Princess Indira Devi, the eldest daughter of the Maharaja Sayaji Rao, Gaekwar of Baroda. They had five children, three daughters and two sons. A daughter was born to His Highness on the 1st October, 1914 in Calcutta and was named Maharajkumari Ila Devi. A son and heir was born on the 15th December, 1915 in Cooch Behar. He had been named Jubaraj Jagaddipendra Narayan. Another son was born on the 6th July, 1918 in Poona and was named Maharajkumar Indrajit Narayan.<sup>180</sup> The Maharaja and his family went to Europe for a short visit in February, 1919 and while staying in London another daughter of His Highness was born on the 23rd May, 1919. She was named Maharajkumari Ayesha Devi, alias Gayatri Devi. Jitendra Narayan returned from England in September, 1919 and again started in April, 1920 for England where he had left his family. A third daughter was born to His Highness in London on the 5th June, 1920. She had been named Maharajkumari Maneka Devi.<sup>181</sup> 'A devoted son, an affectionate brother, a doting husband, a loving father, a kind master and above all a prince among men-such was the Maharaja Jitendra Narayan'.<sup>182</sup>

Maharaja Jitendra Narayan left Cooch Behar in October, 1922 for England. Before leaving he made a Memorandum of Administration of the State which would be given into effect during his absence in India.<sup>183</sup> The news of Jitendranarayan's serious illness in England was received in Cooch Behar in the middle of December, 1922. All sections of the people throughout the State were not slow to send up prayers to God for the speedy recovery of the Maharaja. Sankirtan parties paraded the streets in the several towns and offered special pujas invoking the blessing of the All-powerful. The Mohamedans were also seen in large numbers in their mosques where special Namaj was arranged for. The Brahmos also met at the New Dispensation Church for special prayer on the occasion. But nothing could ward off the inevitable.<sup>184</sup> Maharaja Jitendra Narayan died of heart trouble and anaemia of the brain on the 20th December, 1922 in the house in Hans Road, London where his wife and children had been living for some months. The Maharani and her parents were present there.<sup>185</sup> Jitendra Narayan died on his 36th birthday. He and Indira Devi had been married nine years and she was, at that time, only thirty years old.<sup>186</sup>

The State of Cooch Behar was plunged in deep grief on hearing this melancholy news. The State Council announced with the most profound grief the news of death of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan to the people of Cooch Behar and added that "By deeply lamented death of their beloved Ruler all classes of His Highness' subjects have suffered an irreparable loss. His Highness kindness, geniality and love for his subjects and his solicitude for their welfare will be an abiding memory throughout the State."<sup>187</sup> The State Council also sent a message of condolence to the Maharani of Cooch Behar in London on the 21st December, 1922.<sup>188</sup> A salute of 36 guns corresponding to the late Maharaja's

age at the time of death was fired in the afternoon on the 21st December, 1922 the last gun being fired at sunset.<sup>189</sup>

The funeral of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan took place at Golders Green, London, on the 23rd December, 1922.<sup>190</sup> Those present at the funeral service included the Maharaja of Baroda., The Maharajakumar of Gwalior who came specially from Oxford, Nawab Khusru Junj Bahadur of Hyderabad, Sir William Duke, the Under-Secretary of State for India, Colonel Bannerman (representing the Secretary of State for India), and a number of near-relatives and friends of the deceased. Mr. N.C. Sen, maternal uncle of the late Maharaja, conducted the funeral service in Bengali and Captain K. Sen sang a Bengali hymn.<sup>191</sup>

A funeral procession was also organised at Cooch Behar, which started from the palace and reached the Torsa river-side on the same date at about 5 P.M. which was approximately the corresponding time fixed for the funeral at Golders Green.<sup>192</sup> The people of Cooch Behar could not forget the memory of Maharajkumar Jitendra Narayan for many years. They mourned for the death of the Maharaja with the following words, "The wretched subjects of the state only dragging their existence like so many helpless orphans at the unwarrantable loss of the late lamented Maharaja Sir Jitendra Narayana Bhup Bahadur, K.C.S.I. The sad recollection of his affection for subjects, of his whole-hearted endeavour for all sided improvement of the State and above all of his tender and beautiful figure which is a rarity even amonge Gods, pierces our hearts through and through with the spear of grief and rends them piece to piece."<sup>193</sup>

Jubaraj Jagaddipendra Narayan, the eldest son of the late Maharaja Jitendra Narayan who was only seven years old, succeeded his father on the 20th December, 1922.<sup>194</sup> His succession to the Gaddi of Cooch Behar as His Highness Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayana Bhup Bahadur was formally announced on the 24th December, 1922.<sup>195</sup>

### Notes & References

1. Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department (political) January 1914. p-4.
2. Devi, Gayatri and Rau, Rama Santha : A Princess Remembers : Memoirs of the Maharani of Jaipur, 1976, New Delhi, reprint, 1988, p-37.
3. Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, (political) February, 1914, p-3.
4. Loc.cit. Sanyal Sitiesh Chandra, Jitendra Narayana Bhup Bahadur, CoochBehar, 1923, p-11.
5. Devi, Maharani Sunity, Autobiography of An Indian Princess, edited by Biswanath Das, New Delhi, 1995, p-90. 'Rajey', i.e., Raj Rajendranarayan once had an attack of false croup, the Maharaja told their doctor, "Durga Das, I shall always be over-anxious about Rajey's health until another son is born." Thus the birth of second son Jitendranarayan, whom Their Highnesses called 'Jit' ,brought great rejoicing to the Cooch Behar royal family--  
Loc. cit.
6. Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, (political) September, 1916, p-3. W.B.S.A.
7. Bhattacharjee Nibaran Chandra, Koch Biharer Sankhpta Bibaran (in Bengali), Second Edition, 1927, p-27.
8. A.A.R.C.B.S. 1905-1906, p-5. N.B.S.L. See also Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, September, 1916, p-3. W.B.S.A.
9. Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, September, 1916, p-3.
10. ibid.
11. Devi, Sunity : op.cit, p-187. The 26th August 1913 was observed as a public holiday throughout the Cooch Behar State to celebrate the happy occasion. The State Council Cabled to Maharaja Kumar Jitendra Narayan their congratulations on the 26th August, 1913 and issued the following notification. "The Council have much pleasure in notifying to the people of Cooch Behar that the marriage of Maharaj Kumar Jitendra Narayana was celebrated in London on Monday, the 25th August, 1913. - A.A.R.C.B.S., 1913-1914, p. 2. and C.B.G., Extraordinary, the first September, 1913.
12. Devi, Sunity : op.cit, p-186.
13. ibid. p-187.
14. Devi, Sunity : Loc cit.
15. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1913-1914, Chapter-IX, Paragraph-3, See also Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, September, 1916, p-3.
16. A.A.R.C.B.S. 1913-1914, p-3.
17. C.B.G, September 11, 1913, p-105. The Maharaja Jitendra Narayana conveyed the following gracious message to his people by cable from Cromer, England. "In the death of my dearly loved brother, I have lost not only a brother's love but the affectionate and intimate relations of a dear friend. In the irreparable loss which has so suddenly fallen upon me, coming close upon the death of my illustrious father of happy memory, I am confronted with the feeling that I have the sympathy of my officers and subjects. I am fully sensible of the very heavy responsibilities which have fallen upon me and I pray that God Almighty may grant me strength and guidance and enable me to maintain and uphold good government, and cause law and justice to be administered and executed with mercy, which I seek to consecrate my life to the service of my State." - Confer also A.A.R.C.B.S., 1913-1914, p. 4.
18. C.B.G., September 22, 1913, p-104.
19. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1913-1914, p-4.

20. Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, January, 1914.
21. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1913-1914, p-4.
22. *ibid.*
23. *ibid*, p-5.
24. The Statesman, Calcutta, November 18, 1913, p-8.
25. The Statesman, Calcutta, November 19, 1913, p-8.
26. *Loc.cit.*
27. C.B.G., December 29, 1913.
28. The Statesman, Calcutta, November 19, 1913, p-8. The Maharaja gave attar and pan to Lord Carmichael, and the Dewan performed a similar office for the Governor's staff. An officer of the Cooch Behar State distributed attar and pan to the Durbaries. - *ibid.*
29. C.B.G., Extraordinary, November 28, 1913.
30. Brief Account of Cooch Behar State, 1929-36, Confidential, General Department, C.B., Collection No:1, File No : 6, Batch No : 155. C.B.D.R.R. As already mentioned, Sunity Devi was the eldest daughter of the religious reformer Keshab Chandra Sen and was married to the late Maharaja Nripendra Narayana in 1878 and was decorated with the Order of the Crown of India in 1887. Victor Nityendra Narayan was born in 1888 and educated at Eton and joined the Imperial Cadet Corps in 1906. Hitendra Narayana was born in 1890 and educated at Eton and Cambridge. Sukriti Sundari Devi was born in 1885 and married in 1899 to Mr. Jyotsna Ghosal of the Indian Civil Service. Prartibha Sundari Devi was born in 1891, and married to Mr. Lionel Mander, of the Wolver Wampton according to Brahmo rites in 1912. Sudhira Sundari Devi was born in 1894 and married to Mr. Allen Mander, of Wolver Wampton in 1914. - C.B.G., Extraordinary, November 28, 1913.
31. *ibid*, A.A.R.C.B.S. 1918-1919, p-1.
32. Telegram dated the 12th September, 1913 from Simla, India, Foreign to Darjeeling, Bengal, Political-Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, 1913, confidential, File No : 190, Serial No : 1, p-1. W.B.S.A.
33. Telegram dated the 11th October, 1913 from the Government, Darjeeling to Maharaja, Cooch Behar, *ibid.*, Serial No : 3, p-1.
34. Telegram dated the 11th October, 1913 from Maharaja of Cooch Behar, London to the Governor Lord Carmichael, Darjeeling, *ibid.*, Serial No : 4.
35. Telegram dated the 14th October, 1918 from Bengal, Political Department, Darjeeling to India, Foreign, Simla, *ibid.*, Serial No : 5, pp-1-2
36. C.B.G., Extraordinary, November 28, 1913.
37. Letter No : 30863 P, dated Calcutta, the 21st March, 1914 from Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Superintendent of the Cooch Behar State, Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, March 1914, p-71. W.B.S.A.
38. Letter dated Cooch Behar, the 19th March 1914 from H.H. Maharaja Jitendra Narayana to H.E., the Government of Bengal, *ibid.* P-72.
39. C.B.G., January 25, 1915. An obituary note was published in the Cooch Behar Gazette in the following words : "His Highness the Maharaja Bhup Bahadur desires to express his deep regret at the death of Babu Priya Nath Ghosh, Dewan of the State, which occurred on the 9th January 1915, and to place on record his high appreciation of the services rendered by the deceased officer, during the period of his service extending over 37 years. He was loyal and conscientious in the discharge of his duties in connection with the administration of the state and has

left behind him an unbroken record of untiring devotion to the person and interests of His Highness father, as well as of his late brother and himself. - A.A.R.C.B.S., 1914-1915, p-1.

40. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1914-1915, p-1.
41. C.B.G., Extraordinary, January 27, 1915.
42. C.B.G., Extraordinary, November 24, 1915.
43. Letter No : 270, Ret, dated the 16th November, 1914 from the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department - Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, May, 1915, p-11.
44. Letter No : 589, dated Calcutta, the 13th June, 1914 from Dewan of the Cooch Behar State to the Collector of Rangpur, *ibid*, p-12.
45. Letter No : 2797 R., dated Calcutta, the 8th March, 1915 from Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division, *Ibid*, p-12.
46. Letter No : 51/3 - 1879, dated Calcutta, the 28th December, 1914 from Director of the Department of Land Records, Bengal to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department - Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, February 1915, p-31.
47. *ibid*.
48. Letter No : 1390, dated Cooch Behar, the 5th November, 1914 from Dewan of the Cooch Behar State to the Settlement Officer, Jalpaiguri *ibid*.
49. Letter No : 4807 P, dated Calcutta, the 10th April, 1915 from Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division *ibid*. April, 1915, p-23.PGB
50. Letter No : 51/3 1879, dated Calcutta, the 28th December, 1914 from Director of the Department of Land Records, Bengal to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, *op.cit*.
51. Letter No : 1310 dated Cooch Behar, the 20th August, 1915 from Superintendent of Cooch Behar State to the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division and Political Agent for the Cooch Behar State - *ibid*, November 1915, p-5.
52. Letter No : 12311 P, dated Calcutta, the 18th November, 1915 from Under-secretary to the Government of Bengal, Political Department to the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division - *ibid*.
53. Letter No : 279, dated Cooch Behar, the 16th June, 1919 from Vice-President, State Council, Cooch Behar to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal - Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, September, 1919, p-59.
54. Letter No : 10847 P, dated Calcutta, the 2nd August, 1919, from Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Vice-President, State Council, Cooch Behar - *ibid*., p-62.
55. Proceedings at a meeting to discuss the preliminaries to the settlement of the Goalpara-Cooch Behar boundary. - *ibid*., April 1920, p-12.
56. Letter dated Cooch Behar, the 29th October, 1919 from Vice-President, State Council, Cooch Behar to the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara, *ibid*, pp-14-15. The Maharaja was of opinion that (a) with regard to the Ghurla boundary, the Cooch Behar cadastral survey would be followed except at Balabhut where Renny would be relaid, and area of about 205 acres transferred to Ghurla. To attempt to relay Renny's map wholesale would create trouble as it was not possible to relay his original intentions correctly. The Cooch Behar 16" Survey had obviously followed Renny's boundary in the main, but the two lines differed on the comparative maps made in Major Hirst's officers (b) with regard to the Guma boundary the Maharaja held the view that all the disputes would be settled there after local enquiry by the Boundary Commissioners. (c) Regarding the position of the Raja of Gouripur in

this case, the Maharaa of Cooch Behar was strongly of opinion that the Raja of Gauripur ought not to participate in the work of the Boundary Commissioners as, his interests would be represented by the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara. - *ibid.*

57. Letter No : 1001 R, dated Shillong, the 8th March, 1920 from the Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the Vice-President, State Council, Cooch Behar, *ibid.* p-16 see also Letter No : 1263 R, dated Shillong, the 3rd April, 1920 from Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, *ibid.* p-11.
58. V.P. Menon, The Story of the Integration of the Indian States, First Published 1956, Third Edition, 1961. Orient Longman, p-12.
59. D.R. Mankekar, Accession to Extinction - The Story of Indian Princes, Vikash Publishing House, Delhi, 1974, p-15.
60. Copland, Jan : The Princes of India in the Endgame of Empire. 1917-1947, Cambridge University Press, First South Asian Edition, 1999, p-33.
- 60+. Ashton, S. R. : British Policy towards the Indian States : 1905-1939, Curzon Press Ltd, London, First published 1982, p-58. It has further been pointed out that what was unique about the princes' assistance rendered to the British Empire during the First World War was its extended scope and unusual intensity. Prior to First World War troops from princely states had fought in support of British interests, but most of these campaigns such as the Mutiny, the Tirah, and the Chinese action, had only lasted for a year or so. As British home reserves of essential war material and man power dwindled, the princes were called upon to maintain their support over an extended period of four years, and their subjects served abroad for long periods either in Imperial Service units or in units of the British Indian army. - Ramusack, Barbara N : *op. cit.*, p. 40.
61. C.B.G. 24th August, 1914. (C.B.D.C.O.)
62. C.B.G., June 15, 1914.
63. C.B.G., June 15, 1914.
65. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1914-1915, p-3.
66. *ibid.*, 1915-16, p-2 (General, Paragraph-6)
67. Proceedings of the Seventh Meeting of the State Council, dated-6.10.14, p-60, Resolution-3.
68. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1914-1915, p-3
69. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1915-1916, p-2.
70. Proceedings of the Conference of Ruling Princes and Chiefs, 1916, Confidential, File No : 683, p-15. It should be mentioned here that Maharaja Jitendra Narayana delivered a speech on the agenda regarding the form of minority administration in Native States in this conference - *ibid.* p-22.
71. Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, September, 1921, p-10.
72. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1919-1920, General, Paragraph 13, p-4.
73. *ibid.*, 1920-1921, General, paragraph 7, p-2.
74. V.P. Menon, *op.cit.*, p-12.
75. Ashton, S.R., *op.cit.*, p-50.
76. Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, Letter No : 15 to Secretary of State, dated 9th February, 1917, Enclosure No : 2, Political and Secret Subject Files, 1902-31, File No : 2811 / 1917, No. 930 / 1917.
77. *ibid.*
78. *ibid.*, Enclosure No : 4.
79. Proceedings of the Conference of Ruling Princes and Chiefs held at Delhi on the 30th October, 1916, 5th November,

- 1917, 20th January, 1919 and 3rd November, 1919, Delhi, Government of Indian Press, pp-23-38, 40, 53-63, 84-90.
80. Proceedings of the Conference of Ruling Princes and Chiefs held on October 30th, 1916. File No : 683, confidential Home Political Department, (political) p-23-24 (W.B.S.A.).
81. Ashton, S.R. op.cit, p-48.
82. C.B.G, May 29, 1916.
83. Loc. cit.
84. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1916-1917, p-1.
85. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1917-1918, p-3 General, Paragraph-11.
86. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1918-1919, General, Paragraph-13, p-3.
87. Menon, V.P. : op. cit, pp-12-13.
88. *ibid.*, p-13.
89. *ibid.* It should be noted that Lord Lytton had one time suggested the formation of an Imperial Privy Council which would comprise some of the great rulers, but his suggestion was not accepted, with the then Secretary of State. Lord Curzon's plan for the formation of a Council of Ruling Princes had also been brushed aside. Lord Minto's subsequent scheme for an Advisory Council of Rulers and big landholders to combat the nationalist force had met with the same fate. But during the Vice-royalties of Lord Hardinge and Lord Chelmsford, Conferences of Ruling Princes and Chiefs became a regular feature. *ibid.* p-15.
90. Mankekar, D.R., op.cit. p-14. See also Chudgar P.L., Indian Princes Under British Protection, 1976. p-100. It should be mentioned here that while the Government sought the opinion of the Cooch Behar Durbar on the adoption of the term "Narendra Mandal" proposed in the Montague-Chelmsford Report, the Durbar replied in March 1920 that the Maharaja Jitendra Narayana had approved of the above term as proposed in paragraph 306 of the report on the Indian constitutional reforms Letter No : 3593, dated Cooch Behar to the Commissioner of the Rajshahi - Proceeding of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, March, 1920, p-33
91. Menon, V.P., op.cit, pp-16-17.
92. Memoranda on the Indian States, 1921, Superintendent, Government Printing, India, 1922. (S.L.G.B.) p-137.
93. Menon V.P., op.cit, p-17, Chudgar P.L., op.cit, pp-100-101.
94. Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, 1922, Confidential file no. 172 Serial Nos. 1-5, p-1. It should be mentioned here that another Princely State in Bengal was Tripura, which also became the member of the Chamber of the Princes. *ibid.*
95. Menon V.P., op.cit, p-17.
- It should be mentioned here that some important States, such as Hyderabad (Nizam), Mysore, Travancore, Cochin, Baroda and Indore, did not join the Chamber of Princes on grounds *inter alia* that it would be highly improper for Ruling Princes to commit themselves on their individual responsibility to views and policies which might not command the general approval of their subjects. Chudgar P.L., op.cit, pp-100-101.
96. Menon V.P., op.cit., p-18.
- 96+. Ramusack, Barbara N : The Princes of India in the Twilight of Empire : Dissolution of a Patron - Client System, 1914-1939, The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, 1978, p. 40.
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102. Chandra Bipan, Mukherjee, Mridula, op.cit, pp 186-187.
103. ibid., p-357.
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105. Chandra Bipan, Mukherjee, Mridula, op.cit, p-357.
- 105+. Ramusack, Barbara N : op. cit., pp. 112-113.
106. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1922-1923, p-4.
107. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1921-1922, General, pp 3-4.
108. Sanyal, Sitiesh Chandra, His Highness Late Maharaja Sir Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, K.C.S.I. of Cooch Behar, Appendix, pp 20-21.✓
109. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1921-1922, General, pp 3-4.
110. C.B.G., Extraordinary, June 9, 1922.
111. Roy Charu Chandra, Charu Rayer Darogairi (in Bengali) Cooch Behar, 1990, pp 86-87, 91.✓
112. ibid., p-87.
113. Roy Charu Chandra : 'Sada Posaker Ek Maharaja' in Cooch Behar Samachar (Newspaper) Cooch Behar, July 11, 1985.
114. Roy Charu Chandra, Charu Rayer Darogagiri, op.cit, p-87.
115. ibid, pp 87-91.
116. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1922-1923, General Administration and Criminal Justice p-1.
117. Chandra Bipan, op.cit, p-19.
118. Sanyal Sites Chandra, op.cit, p-17, Also see Majumdar Satyendra Narayan, Amar Biplab Jignasa (in Bengali), p-70.
119. C.B.G., November 20, 1922, Part-I, No : XXII.
120. Sanyal Sitiesh Chandra, op.cit, p-17.
121. Sudhir P., 'The Indian States and the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-1931', in Indian History Congress Proceedings of the 37th Session, Calicut, 1976, p-364.
122. Chandra Bipan, op.cit, pp 357-358
123. C.B.G., November 6, 1922.
- 123\*. Bhattacharyya, Bedasruti : 'An Attempt to Introduce Lottery under Koch Raj : Studies in the Differences in Social Perspective, in Bhattacharyya, P. K. (ed.), The kingdom of Kamata-Koch Behar in Historical Perspective, Ratna Prakashan, Calcutta, First Published 2000, pp. 157-159.
- 123\*\*. ibid, p. 160. It may be mentioned here that the 'Bikaner War Loan Lottery' which was scheduled to take place in 1918, also met a similar fate because of refusal of the Government of India. In reply to a point raised by the Maharaja of Bikaner about legalised lottery in England, the Government of India sharply pointed out, " this will perhaps not influence our policy in matter as conditions in England and India are not identical." ibid., p. 159
124. Chandra Bipan, p-135.
125. ibid, pp 140-141.

126. *ibid.*, pp 142-144.
127. De, Jiban : Amar Jibane (in Bengali) October, p-11.
128. Maharaja Jitendra Narayana's letter dated, the Palace, Cooch behar, the 23rd, March, 1915 to Mr. Hughes Buller, Intelligence Bureau, Government of Bengal, May, 1915, Confidential, p-179. WBSA
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130. Dutta, Charu Chandra : Purno Katha, Upasanhar (in Bengali) p-47.
131. Biswas Biswa, Bir Sarvarkar O Sahid Dhingra (in Bengali), p-47, Bipan Chandra, et al : *op.cit.*, pp 144-145.
132. Majumdar, Satyendra Narayana : Amar Biplab Jignasa (in Bengali) p-30.
133. Personal interview with Dr. Shib Shankar Mukerjee, Cooch Behar, in Ananda Gopal Ghose and Malay Shankar Bhattacharyya, 'Indian Nationalist Movement and the Maharajas of the Cooch Behar State', : *op.cit.* p-67.
134. *Loc cit.*
135. Note on the Activity of Revolutionary Bengalee in Cooch Behar, Intelligence Bureau, Confidential, Part I, the 18th May, 1915, p-1 (W.B.S.A.).
136. Das, Pulin Behari : Amar Jiban Kahini (in Bengali), edited by Amalendu Dey, Anusilan Samity, Calcutta, 1987, Sampadaker Nibedan, p-12.
137. Gupta, Asruman Das : Puratan Prasangey (in Bengali), In Jenkins School Centenary Volume 1961, p-17.
138. Barman Uppendra Nath : 'Smriti Charana', Jalpesh, 4th Chaitra, 1387, B.S.
139. Majumdar, Satyendra Narayan : *op.cit.*, p-70.
140. Ganguli, Pratul Chandra : Biplabir Jiban Darshan (in Bengali), pp 311-312.
141. Hale, H.W., Political Trouble in India, 1917-1937, p-41.
142. Das Pulin Bihari, *op. cit.*, pp 35-37.
143. *ibid.*, Sarkar, Pulakesh De, *op.cit.*
144. Personal Interview with Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, *op.cit.*
145. Personal interview with Pulakesh De Sarkar, Calcutta in Ananda Gopal Ghose, *op. cit.*
146. Personal interview with Shiv Sankar Mukherjee, *op.cit.*
147. Note on the Activity of Revolutionary Bengalees in Cooch Behar, *op. cit.*, p-2.
148. *ibid.*, p-2.
149. *ibid.*, pp 2-3.
150. Letter No : 867 C.I., dated the 25th May, 1915 from Mr. Hughes Buller, Intelligence Branch, Government of Bengal to Maharaja Jitendra Narayana Cooch Behar, Intelligence Bureau, Government of Bengal, 1915, Confidential, Part-I, p-180. WBSA
151. Letter dated Cooch behar, the 23rd March, 1915 from Maharaja Jitendra Narayan to Mr. Hughes Buller, Intelligence Branch, Government of Bengal *ibid.* p-179.
152. C.B.G., January 19th, 1920, CBCO.
153. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1918-1919, p-1. NBSL
154. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1919-1920, p-1.
155. *ibid.*, p-2.
156. C.B.G., March 29th, 1920.
157. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1920-1921, pp1-2. His Majesty the King-Emperor highly appreciated the services of late Maharaj Kumar Hitendra Narayan, the Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan's youngest uncle, during the War of 1914-1918.

Winston Churchill, Secretary of the State for War, War Office, White Hall, S.W., dated, 1st March, 1919 recorded the following message :

"Honorary Lieutenant Hitendra Narayan, Maharaj Kumar of Cooch Behar was mentioned in a despatch from field Marshal Sir John D.P. French, dated 31st May, 1915 for gallant and distinguished services in the field. I have it in command from King to record His Majesty's high appreciation of the services rendered." A copy of the message was received by the Cooch Behar State under cover of letter (No. 604 P.D.) dated the 14th June, 1923, from the Government of Bengal and was forwarded to Her Highness Maharani Sunity Debi, C.I. — A.A.R.C.B.S., 1923-24, p.1

158. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1921-1922, p-2

159. Memoranda on the Indian States, 1921, corrected upto June, 1921, Government Printing, India 1922, p-137 (SLGB).

160. Memorandum relating to the State of Cooch Behar, Corrected upto December, 1922, *ibid*.

161. Memorandum on Native States in India, Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political, September, 1921, p-9.

162. Chief Secretary's Note, Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, 1920, Confidential File No : 19/1920, p-5.

163. *Loc.cit*.

#### Statements of the liabilities of H.H. The Maharaja of Cooch Behar

| Old Loans |                |              |          |   | New Loans and Unextinguished balances of Old Loans |  |              |          |  |
|-----------|----------------|--------------|----------|---|--|--|--------------|----------|--|
| No.       | Creditors      | Amount (Rs.) | Interest | Remarks   | No.  | Creditors                              | Amount (Rs.) | Interest | Remarks  |
| 1.        | Allahabad Bank | 4,00,000     | 6%       | Due in August 1920, but extended until April 1921 at 7½%                                    | 1.   | Allahabad Bank                         | 4,00,000     | 7½%      | Due in April 1921  |
| 2.        | Bank of Bengal | 2,00,000     | 7%       | Overdraft taken to pay English Bills and other debts of H.H. and to assist the cash Balance | 2.   | Rai Janaki Nath Ray Bhadur of Calcutta | 3,00,000*    | 10%      | Secured by 2 strings of pearls and His Highness's Life policy.   |
| 3.        | Ditto...       | 1,00,000     | 7%       | Extinguished by new Loan No. 2  | 3.   | Kumar Pramathanath Ray of Calcutta     | 1,00,000*    | 10%      | Secured on simple note of hand plus state recognition, a balance of Rs.15,000 remains with His Highness. |

| Old Loans |                              |              |          |  | New Loans and Unextinguished balances of Old Loans |                              |              |          |   |
|-----------|------------------------------|--------------|----------|--|--|------------------------------|--------------|----------|---|
| No.       | Creditors                    | Amount (Rs.) | Interest | Remarks  | No.  | Creditors                    | Amount (Rs.) | Interest | Remarks   |
| 4.        | Ditto....                    | 70,000       | 7%       | This loan and interest thereon and an overdraft has been extinguished by new Loan No. 3      | 4.   | Ditto...                     | 1,50,000     | 10%      | Collateral security Same security plus 'Colinton' : balance of Rs. 50,000 with H.H. It is proposed to debit these balance amounting to Rs. 65,000 to privy purse. |
| 5.        | Private Loan of His Highness | 2,00,000     | 12%      | Rs. 1,00,000 paid out of new loan No. 4 Balance of Rs. 100,000 carried forward as Loan No. 5 | 5.   | Balance of Private Loan      | 1,00,000     | 12%      | —   |
| 6.        | Rai Radha Charan Pal         | 1,50,000     | 9.5%     | Taken to pay Indian carried forward as No. 6   | 6.   | Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur | 1,50,000     | 9½%      | To be paid from the budget provision for repayment of loans in 1920-21, the current year Rs. 3,50,000   |

Previous Position

Liabilities : Rs. 11,20,000

Present Position

Liabilities : Rs. 12,00,000

Repayment of Rai R.C. Pal 1,50,000

Interest 1,11,000

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 2,61,250

Balance 89,000

Cooch Behar :  
The 19th April, 1920

H.J. Twynam  
Vice-President, State Council

## \* Note :-

- a) It is desired to pay off the loans marked by contracting a new loan for Rs. 7,00,000 at a lower rate of Interest.  
 b) Interest Charges on the loans amount to Rs. 1,11,250.

Source : Govt. of Bengal, Political Dept., (Political), 1920 Confidential File No. : 19/1920, p.4

164. Note of the Secretary to Maharaja Jitendra Narayana, on the Cooch Behar Loan, Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, 1921, Confidential, File No : 55, Serial No : 6, p-6. WBSA

The liabilities and debts of the state can be divided into two categories : (1) Debts due to English Banks and Tradesmen and (2) Debts due to Indian Banks and tradesmen. Under (i) There were the following debts :-

|   | £      | £      |
|---|--------|--------|
| Loans from Messers. Cox and Co. ....    | 10,000 |        |
| Loans from M/s. Henry S. King & Co..... | 12,000 |        |
| Interest on the two Loans.....          | 1,500  |        |
|   | <hr/>  | 23,500 |
| Amount due to Tradesmen.....            |        | 12,600 |
|   |        | <hr/>  |
|   |        | 36,100 |

Under ii) There were the following debts :-

|  | Rs.      | Rs.      |
|--|----------|----------|
| Loan on mortgage of woodlands property in Alipour<br>(Calcutta) due to the Allahabad Bank..... | 4,00,000 |          |
| Interest due at 7% for one Quarter.....  | 7,000    |          |
|  | <hr/>    | 4,07,000 |
| Loan from Bank of Bengal.....  | 84,295   |          |
| On Government Security.....  | 63,595   |          |
|  | <hr/>    | 1,47,890 |
|  |          | <hr/>    |
|  |          | 5,54,890 |

Loan from Capitalists in Calcutta :-

|   |          |           |
|---|----------|-----------|
| From M/s. Radha Charan.....               | 1,50,000 |           |
| From M/s. Promotha Nath Ray.....          | 2,50,000 |           |
| From M/s. Janakinath & Sita Nath Ray..... | 3,80,000 |           |
| From M/s. Janaki Nath Ray.....            | 1,00,000 |           |
|   | <hr/>    | 8,80,000  |
| Amount due to Tradesmen.....              |          | 2,00,000  |
|   |          | <hr/>     |
|   |          | 16,34,890 |

Thus it is seen that the total amount of the debts were as under :-

(i) 36100 and (ii) Rs. 1634890. The two debts were together roughly estimate at a sum of Rs. 2150000.

- ibid, p. 3-6

165. *ibid.*, p 3-6.
166. Letter (D.O.) No : 3156 P dated, Calcutta, the 23rd March, 1921 from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal to Secretary to the Government of India, Political Department, Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, Confidential File No : 55/1921, p-4. WBSA
167. Letter D.O. No : 533 dated Calcutta, the 15th, March 1920 from Mr. W.R. Gourlay to Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, *ibid.*, p-3.
168. Letter D.O. No : 632, P.D. dated Darjeeling, 24th June, 1921 from J. Donald, Bengal Secretariate to the Political Secretary, Government of India, *ibid.* p-9. The Government of Bengal also informed the Government of India that in 1891-1892 the then Maharaja (Nripendra Narayana) received a loan from the Government of India of Rs. 8 Lakhs for his railway scheme and another loan of 2 Lakhs for the same purpose was granted in 1897-1898. Besides in 1895 the Government of India sanctioned a loan of 3.5 lakhs to pay off the Late Maharaja's urgent private debts : D.O. No : 3165 P, dated Calcutta, the 23rd March, 1921 from Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal to Secretary to the Government of India, Political Department, *ibid.*, p-4.
169. D.O. No : 2061 I.A., dated Simla, the 2nd August, 1921 from J.P. Thompson Government of India to the Offg. Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, *ibid.*, File No : 55, Serial No : 18, p-14.
170. Letter dated Government House, Dacca, the 4th August, 1921 from the Government of Bengal to Maharaja Jitendra Narayana, Cooch Behar. *ibid.*, Serial No : 17, p-13.
- 170+. A.A.R.C.B.S. - 1921-22, Financial-II, Page-5.
171. Sanyal, Sitiesh Chandra, *op.cit.*, pp 14-15.
172. *ibid.*, pp 15-16.
173. *ibid.*
174. *ibid.*, p-17.
175. Devi, Sunity, *op.cit.*, pp 202-203.
176. Sanyal, Sitiesh Chandra, *op.cit.*, p-13.
177. Devi, Ghayatri and Rao Rama Santha, *op.cit.*, p-46.

Maharaja Jitendranarayana kept up the sporting tradition handed down by his father, displayed great interest in cricket and was a fine all-round sportsman. The young Maharaja had learnt cricket in England and his interest in Bengal cricket was manifest in his support and help towards the establishment of the Bengal Gymkhana. During his regime a number of amateur and professional Cricketers from abroad like F. Tarrant, H.W. Lee, J. Newman etc. played for the Cooch Behar team. In addition to these, several Indian players from Bombay like M.P. Bajana, J. S. Warden, P. Vithal, S.N. Jos etc. were included in the Maharaja's team. How far Bengali cricket had profited from the Maharaja's encouragement can be seen from the fact that Bidhu Mukherjee, Moni Das, Prof. S. Roy, P. Ghose, Sailesh Bose, Kaladhan Mukherjee S. Aiket etc., amongst others, used to figure prominently in the Cooch Behar team.

Many notable matches such as between the Maharaja of Cooch Behar's XI and the Governor of Bengal's XI at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta, on November 24, 1917, in which the former won by an innings and 46 runs and Cooch Behar's games with the Governor of Bombay's XI at Bombay in March, 1918 and again at Poona in September that year were drawn in favour of the Cooch Behar team. It is affirmed that during the reign of Jitendra Narayana Cooch Behar did not lose a game. Sporting India, A monthly Journal devoted to the World of Sports and Screen, November 30, 1940, Vol. No : 5, pp 203-204.

178. Sanyal, Sitiesh Chandra, *op.cit.*, p-17.
179. Devi Sunity, *op.cit.*, pp 202-203 See also Bandyopadhyay, Bhagabati Charan : Koch Biharar Irihas, edited by

Nripendranath Paul, Anima Prakashani, Calcuttal, 1987, p-164.

180. Memoranda on Native States, Cooch Behar. Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Political Department, Political, September 1921, p-9, Sunity Devi, op.cit., p-202.
181. A Brief Account of Cooch Behar State, 1929 to 1936-37, Office of General Department, Cooch Behar, Collection No : 1, File No : 6; See also Gayatri Devi and Santha Rama Rao, op.cit, pp 40-41.
182. Sanyal, Sitiesh Chandra, op.cit, p-20. Jitendra Narayan was devoted to her mother the Dowager Maharani Sunity Devi. Sunity Devi mentioned in her autobiography that, "Jit has been one of the best sons to me, so loving, so kind and thoughtful and he often treats me as if I were the same age as his little daughter." Victor Nityendra Narayan was an affectionate and obedient brother to Jitendra Narayan. Sunity Devi mentioned this in her autobiography that "anything Jit says is law to him. He would give his life for his brother ... In his life Jit comes first." - Devi, Sunity, op. cit., p. 203.
183. C.B.G., November 6, 1922. CBCO
184. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1922-1923, Debutter Department, P-1. NBSL
185. The Statesman, Calcutta, December 23, 1922. This Report has been quoted from Reuters Special Service, London, December 21, 1922
186. Devi, Gayatri and Rao, Santha Rama, op.cit, p-46.
187. C.B.G., Extraordinary, December 21, 1922. CBCO
188. C.B.G., Extraordinary, December 28, 1922.
189. C.B.G., Extraordinary, December 21, 1922,
190. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1922-1923, Debutter Department, p-1.
191. Sanyal, Sitiesh Chandra, op.cit, pp 5-6.
192. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1922-1923, Debutter Department, p-1.
193. A Prayer presented to the Maharani Indira Devi, the Regent by the subjects of Pundibari and Khapaidanga on the 18th May, 1931. Regency Council, Cooch Behar, Collection No : 12, File No : 8, Diary No : 240 (C.B.D.R.R.).
194. Memoranda on the Indian States, 1921, Calcutta, Government Printing, India, 1922 S.L.G.B.
195. A.A.R.C.B.S., 1922-1923, Debutter Department, p-1. NBSL