



## CONTRIBUTION OF FREEDOM FIGHTER THAKUR PYARELAL SINGH IN NATIONAL MOVEMENT

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### Abstract

*At the very beginning of 17<sup>th</sup> Century, the East India Company came into India during the reign of Queen Elizabeth of England for the trade purpose and the members of the company were to get more and more benefits through trading. But after the battle of Plassey in 1757, the company's aim was for ruling not for trading. Slowly the East India Company became the ruling company first starting from Bengal and then later on their aim was to capture the throne of Mughal Baadshahin Delhi. After the revolt of 1857, the power was transferred from the company to British Crown. In this way, from 1857 to 1947, so called the nation India/Bharat was ruled over by the British Crown. Under the both rules Company and British Crown, they followed the policy of divide and rule, drained a lot of wealth from India to England, the people of India became poor to poorer, always paid heavy revenues to the rulers and so on. On the other hand, there were not such a great national leaders who could lead the people of nation and develop national consciousness towards freedom till the second decade of 20<sup>th</sup> Century. As soon as the 'Father of Nation' Mahatma Gandhi arrived to India from South Africa, the situation of the nation was going to change. At national level various movements were launched by Gandhiji in order to set free the nation, those movements influence were clearly seen in across the country including the Chhattisgarh region also. At Durg district of Madhya Pradesh (at present Chhattisgarh), one of the famous freedom fighters called Thakur Pyarelal Singh sacrificed his whole life for raising the voices against the British rule from 1905 onwards and later on contributed in Non-Cooperation Movement, Jhanda Satyagraha, Civil Disobedience Movement, Quit India Movement and Bhoodan Movement and so on. Beside this, for national awakening and fight for rights for the people of this region Thakur Singhji always stood, therefore, he is considered as the founder of Cooperative, Labours, Patta Mat Lo, Lagaan Mat Do Movements. In the year 1954, during the padyarta of Bhoodan Yagya in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Thakur Singhji took his last breath of his life and was buried at the bank of Kharunriver in Raipur (at present Capital of Chhattisgarh.).*

*This research paper highlighting the Contribution of Freedom Fighter Thakur Pyarelal Singh in National Movements and his great efforts done towards various movements such as Cooperative, Labour, Bhoodan and Sarvodaya etc., which occurred at different time in Chhattisgarh region.*

**Key Word:** *Cooperative Movement, Labour Movement, Bhoodan Yagya, Bhoodan Yatra, Patta Mat Lo, Laggan Mat Do, First Martyr of Bhoodan Yagya Aandolan*

### Introduction:

After the arrival of East India Company into India in 1600, its aim was only for trading. Due to change of time and circumstances the company tried to interfere in the political affair in Bengal after the battle of Plassey in 1757. The company played the role of king maker. In that way, their focus was on politics, not on trading. The company successfully applied the principle of divide and rule. Slowly one by one they captured the various kings ruling areas and established the British Empire. As a result of the revolt of

1857, the last Badshah of Mughal Empire Bahadur Shah II 'Jafar' was executed from Delhi to Rangoon (Burma) by the British rule. But in the same year, the power was transferred from the Company to British Crown. Under the rules of Company and British Crown, the people of India/Bharat Varsh were suffering a lot by paying of huge revenue, harsh British policies, corruption, starvation, flood, famines etc. Though, there were courts to provide justice but that was also useless for the common people. Overall it could be said that there were no any great national level leader, one who could lead/direct the people of the nations for their birth rights, basic needs, justice, and equality and so on. At the very beginning, before and after the formation of Indian National Congress in 1885, there were no such great political leaders at national level. There were some political leaders but they too were supporters of British rule.

Finally, after the arrival of Mahatma Gandhiji into India from South Africa in 1915, few years later various national level movements were lunched under the leadership of Gandhi till the independence of the nation in 1947. So, at that time while occurring the various national level movements, one of the great freedom fighters of Chhattisgarh region called Thakur Pyarelal Singh participated in those movements till the independence of the nation. After the assassination of Gandhiji in 1948, when the spiritual successor of Gandhiji; Acharya Vinoba Bhave launched the Bhoodan Movement at Pochampally (Telengana) in 1951, Thakur Singhiji participated in the Bhoodan Movement. But unfortunately, in the year 1954, while the padyatra of BhoodanYagya Movement was continuing at Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), due to ill-health and heart stroke Thakur Pyarelal Singh took his last breath of his life. Therefore, the freedom fighter Thakur Singh is considered as the First Martyr of BhoodanYagya Movement.

#### **Need of the Study:**

On 21<sup>st</sup> December 1891, Thakur Pyarelal Singh the founder of Labour and Cooperative Movements as well the first martyr of Bhoodan Movement was born at Daihan village of Rajnandgaon Tehsil of Durg district (at present Rajnandgaon) of Madhya Pradesh State (at present Chhattisgarh State). Once upon a time by the natural beauty, Rajnandgaon was called as the 'Paris of Chhattisgarh'.<sup>1</sup> The ancestor of Thakurji came from Rewa to Ratanpur during the reign of Kalchuri dynasty, and finally they settled in Rajnandgaon riyasat. Thakur Singh belonged to a Rajput caste of Vaghela (Baghel). His father's name was Shri Deendayal Singh and mother's name was Narmada Devi.

In the year 1905, Thakur Singh qualified the Middle School examination from Rajnandgaon. Thereafter he qualified the high school/metric examination from Govt. High School, Raipur in 1908. Rest of the studies, Thakur Singh qualified from Robertson Inter College Jabalpur, and for B.A. degree from Hislop College Nagpur. After that by the financial support of Pt. Narayan Prasad, Thakur Singh went to Allahabad University and qualified the Law degree in 1915 and returned to Rajnandgaon.<sup>2</sup> In the year 1916, Thakur Singh started his advocacy firstly in Durg then Raipur. He continued his advocacy for very short period, but became popular very soon in this region.

As a student of Middle School in Rajnandgaon onwards, he led the student movement against the school, Bang-Bhang, Swadeshi Movement and boycott of foreign goods of 1905 affected him a lot and slowly national sentiment arose within him. In 1907 he came in contact with Bal Gangadhar Tilak, in 1908 came in contact with some escapee Bengal revolutionaries in Rajnandgaon and raised his voice in favor of 'Vande Matram' slogan in Rajnandgaon. In 1909, he got success by opening the 'Saraswati Pustakalaya' in Rajnandgon. In 1914, Thakur Singh successfully led the movement of Diwan Hatao in Rajnandgaon (Diwan – Qutubuddin).

Thakur Singh successfully led the Labours Movement in Rajnandgaon from 1920 to 1937, came in contact with Gandhiji in 1920 in Raipur, participated in the Non-

Cooperation Movement in 1920, got responsibility of Jhanda Satyagraha in 1923, participated in Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930, Quit India Movement in 1942 and finally participated in the Bhoodan Yagya Movement in 1952 by giving his last breath during the Bhoodan Padyarta in 1954.

Beside all these, Thakur Singh contributed a lot for the development of cooperative sector, as well accompanying in untouchability programme with Pt. Sundarlal Sharma, and was active member of Congress till 1950, then led the Krishak Praja Majdur Party in Madhya Pradesh.

In the previous period, various researchers have been conducted on the contribution of various other freedom fighters in national movements of Chhattisgarh region. But there are very few researchers, who have conducted their research on the contribution of Thakur Pyarelal Singh in National Movements. Thus, the researcher is focusing deeply on the contribution of Thakur Singhji in various national movements and his great service for the people of these areas.

#### **Statement of the Problem:**

Contribution of Freedom Fighter Thakur Pyarelal Singh in National Movement.

#### **Objectives of the Study:**

The following are the objectives of the study such as:

1. To study the contribution of Thakur Pyarelal Singh in various National Movements.
2. To study the initiatives taken by Thakur Singhji during BNC Mill strike.
3. To study the success of the Cooperative Movement.
4. To study the influence of Bhoodan Yagya Padyatra Movement.

#### **Review of the Related Literature:**

**Gaur, Romy (1990)** had studied in the 'Tyagmurti Thakur Pyarelal Singh's Contribution in Freedom Movement of Chhattisgarh' that Thakur Singh sacrificed his whole life to raise the voices against the British rule through participating in various national level movements before and after the independence of the nation. She had deeply studied on the contribution of Thakur Singhji starting from the Bang-Bhang movement till the end of Bhoodan Padyatra.

**Verma, Dr. Bhagwan Singh (1995)** had written in the book 'Chhattisgarh ka Itihas (Rajnitik evam Sanskritik: Prarambh se 1947 tak)' that the author had deeply focused on the contribution of Thakur Pyarelal Singhji in B.N.C. Mill strike held at Rajnandgaon from 1920 to 1937. Beside this, the author had briefly discussed Thakur Singhji's contribution in national level movements.

**Mishra, Dr. Ramendranath and Jha, Dr. Laxmidhar (2017)** had mentioned in one of the chapters Historical Personalities of Chhattisgarh of the book 'Samagra Chhattisgarh', about the contribution of Thakur Pyarelal Singh in various national movements. The authors had briefly discussed on the life sketch, his contribution for development of national consciousness, for the success of cooperative and constructive works, and so on.

**Singh, Ashish (2017)** had written in the book 'Thakur Pyarelal Singh: Vyaktitva aur Vichar' that Thakur Pyarelal Singh was the famous freedom fighter, founder of the Cooperative Movement, First opposition leader as well the First martyr of Bhoodan Yagya Movement of Chhattisgarh. Thus, he has emphasized on selfless attitude of Thakur Singhji towards the needy, poor and always tried to develop national consciousness among the people of these regions against the British rule.

#### **Methodology of the Study:**

The present study is a qualitative research. The nature of the study is historical and descriptive. The method of the present study will mainly be descriptive type analysis. The process involves analysis and interpretation of the works on Contribution of Thakur

Pyarelal Singh in various national movements towards the independence of the nation. In the present study the focus is on identification of pertinent sources in the form of books, research articles, Ph.D.Thesis and an Interview etc.

### **Findings:**

The main findings of the study are on the basis of objectives taken. They mainly give the Contribution of Freedom Fighter Thakur Pyarelal Singh in National Movement.

### **Contribution of Thakur Pyarelal Singh in National Movements:**

Following are the contributions at various national level movements of Thakur Pyarelal Singh, beginning from Bang-Bhang Movement in 1905 to participating in Bhoodan Yagya Movement in 1952, such as:

#### **❖ Development of Patriotism in oneself:**

In the year 1905, when the partition of Bengal took place; suddenly afterwards in whole the nation national consciousness was raised among the people against the British rule. During that time Thakur Singh was studying in Govt. High School, at Raipur and came in contact with Pt. Madhav Rao Sapre. Whenever Thakurji went to Rajnandgaon, he worked for the development of national consciousness and boycott of foreign good. There were various other leaders alike Shivalal Master, Shankarrao Khare, Pt. Chaviram Chaoubey and so on in Rajnandgaon who contributed for the spread and success of the movement.

It was the year 1907, when Bal Gangadhar Tilak returned from Calcutta to Raipur; at that time Thakur Singhji accompanied Tilakji from Raipur to Rajnandgaon. In Rajnandgaon, food was arranged for Tilakji, afterwards Thakur Singhji along with Chaviram Chaoubey and Pt. Rajulal Sharma went to drop out by train till Gondia railway station. Hence, Tilakji influenced a lot to Thakur Singhji; in this way he became the follower of extremist thought of Congress.<sup>3</sup>

In the year 1908, some Bengal revolutionaries namely Vidhu bhushan Malik and Chakraborty Babu escaped from Bengal due to protest of partition of Bengal and reached to Rajnandgaon. Some revolutionary literatures Thakur Singhji got from them and thoroughly studied. With the help of Jaychand Sanyal (Head Clerk) and Pt. Chaviram Chaoubey (Clerk) of the Mill of Nandgaon, Thakur Singhji met with them and requested them to keep at work to the escapee Bengali revolutionaries. In this way, Thakurji helped them in order to secure their lives in Rajnandgaon. In the same year, various congress leaders at national and state level such as Lala Lajpat Roy, Lokmanya Tilak and Pt. Madhavrao Sapre were arrested by the British rule, at that time Thakur Singhji protested against British rule and raised his voice in Rajnandgaon for the slogan of 'Vande Matram' in favor of the arrest of Tilakji. A huge procession of students was successfully led by Thakur Singhji and Gangadhar Rao.

In the year 1909, the 'Saraswati Pustakalaya' was founded at Rajnandgaon by Thakur Pyarelal Singh.<sup>4</sup> Thakur Singhji motivated the people of Rajnandgaon region to study the books/literatures, newspapers and told them the importance of library for the development of national consciousness. Even he took some donation for the library and got some books also. In all these works Thakur Singhji was helped by Sitaram Sao and Pt. Rajulal Sharma. In that way he developed the literary consciousness among the people of Rajnandgaon.

A few years later in 1914, there was a Diwan named Qutubuddin in Rajnandgaon Riyasat. People of that region were fed up with his stupid and cruel behavior but nobody tried to protest him. After qualifying law degree by Thakur Singhji, he returned to Rajnandgaon and took initiative by complaining against the Diwan to British Political Agent. In that work of 'Diwan Hatao Movement'<sup>5</sup> students, people and especially Pt. Kshitizdhar Jha and Pt. Raghuwar Prasad Tiwari' helped a lot; and Thakur Singhji got

success in the movement by removing Diwan Qutubuddin from the post of Diwan. Thus, it was the beginning stages of Thakur Singhji's career to develop patriotism first within oneself then others too.

In an interview with Shree Ashish Singh, nephew of Thakur Pyarelal Singh at Raipur told the researcher deeply about the genealogy of the Singh family from Rewa to Ranjandgaon riyasat, contributions of Thakur Singhji in various national level movements and other constructive works for the upliftments of people, and Bhoodan journey etc.<sup>6</sup>

❖ **Leader of Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mill Labour Strike at Rajnandgaon (1920-1937):**

In the year 1920, Thakur Pyarelal Singh led the Bengal Nagpur Cotton (BNC) Mill (*C.P. Mills founded during the reign of King Balram Das at Rajnandgaon in 1890 by Mr.J.V.Mackbeth of Bombay and mill manager was Shree Kedarnath Bagchi and Mills name changed to B.N.C.Mills in 1897*)<sup>7</sup> strike of labours against the more work and less wages by the mill owner; the strike continued for the 37days and finally succeeded first time in the history of nation.<sup>8,9</sup> The BNC Mill strike of 1920 was one of the longest labour strikes and considered as the First strike of Chhattisgarh. This time only the famous labour leader of the nation V.V.Giri arrived to Rajnandgaon and the decision was given in favor of labours. The BNC Mill labour strike once again started in 1924 because of the suppressive policy of labours by the mill owner, and this time also the strike was successfully led by Thakur Singh. During the second strike time, Thakur Singh was executed from the Rajnandgaon Riyasat. Later on Thakur Singh permanently resided in Raipur and helped Pt. Sundarlal Sharma in the 'Aachchutodhar Karya/Untouchability Work' (*Upliftments of the down trodden people for the enter in the Rajiv Lochan Temple, Rajim*) which was started by Pt. Sharma at Rajim in 1925.<sup>10</sup> Thirdly and last time once again the BNC Mill labour strike occurred in 1937 because of the wages deduction of labours. This time also the strike was successfully led by Thakur Singh. Finally, the Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mill Labour strikes occurred from 1920 to 1937 was successfully led under the leadership of Thakur Pyarelal Singh and got success over the mill owner regarding the wages matters.

❖ **Role in Non-Cooperation Movement (1920):**

Thakur Pyarelal Singh first time came into contact with Mahatma Gandhi on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1920, when Gandhiji came to Raipur for the purpose of Kandel Nahar Satyagraha. Later on with other congress leaders, he participated in the Congress Session of Nagpur in 1920.

As soon as in 1920, when Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation Movement in the nation against the British rule, the movement influenced Thakur Singh. As a result, he was the first one from Durg and secondly Pt. Ramnarayan Tiwari from Dhamtari who forsook the advocacy. Next year in 1921, he opened the 'Rashtriye Vidhyalaya' (*National School*) along with Dr. Baldev Prasad Mishra, Padumlal Punnalal Bakshi, and Banshi lal as well thousands of Charkhes (*Cotton spinning wheel*) were distributed among the people in Rajnandgaon. Thakur Singh told the importance of Charkhe to them also. For the propagation of Khadi, he opened the 'Khadi Ashrama' in Raipur in 1921. He himself wore the Khadi clothes. Various programmes of the movement were successfully implemented by Thakurji i.e. boycott of foreign goods, picketing in front of vine shops etc. According to Prabhulal very soon Thakur Singhji was arrested by the British rule.<sup>11</sup>

❖ **Role in Jhanda Satyagraha (1923):**

In the month of June 1923, under the leadership of Pt. Sundarlal Sharma, the Jhanda Satyagraha was declared from Jabalpur (Central Province).<sup>12</sup> After that in the month of May 1923, the Jhanda Satyagraha was held at Nagpur and led by Jamunalal Bajaj. In order to participate in the Nagpur Jhanda Satyagraha, various satyagrahis from Raipur, Durg and Bilaspur went to Nagpur by taking the national flag in their hands and entered in the restricted areas of the British government. In this connection from Durg district, the Provincial Congress Committee gave responsibility to Thakur Singh to send some satyagrahis for the participation in Jhanda Satyagraha to Nagpur.

❖ **Role in Civil Disobedience Movement (1930):**

In 1929, the Congress session was held at Lahore and in the session Congress declared for the 'Purna Swatantra' (Complete Independence). As a result Gandhiji started the 'Dandi March' in order to break the salt law of British rule.

At national level in the year 1930, when Mahatma Gandhiji once again launched the Civil Disobedience Movement against the British rule. The Congress committees were dissolved by the British rule. In order to make the movement successful in Raipur at first phase, five great congress leaders of these region who were called the "Panch Pandava" gave their contributions, and among one of them was Thakur Pyarelal Singh. Thakur Singh was recognized as the 'Arjun'. Thakur Singh gathered and motivated the various satyagrahis in order to protest in front of vine shops. He himself even participated in the picketing. In Durg 'Jila Congress Sammelan' was organized under the presidentship of Seth Govind Das, and the Sammelan was addressed by Thakur Singhji. In Bilaspur a Rajnitik Sammelan was held under the presidentship of Thakur Singhji, in which sammelan Krantikumar Bhartiye hoisted Tiranga flag on the building of Town Hall, Bilaspur.

In the same year 1930, Thakur Pyarelal Singh started the movements of 'Patta Mat Lo' (*Don't take land on lease*) and 'Lagaan Mat Do' (*Don't pay revenue*)<sup>13</sup> in Raipur, in favor of peasants of this district against the British rule. As a result, Thakur Singh was arrested at night 2-3 pm from home and imprisoned for one year in Sivani Jail in Class-B Jail. In 1931, Thakur Singhji was set free and returned to Raipur where people welcomed him warmly. After the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, all prisoners across the nation (including Thakur Singh) were set free.<sup>14</sup>

In the year 1932, during the second phase of Civil Disobedience Movement, when Gandhiji was arrested and put into prison; Congress committees and processions were completely banned in Chhattisgarh region. An assembly was held at Gandhi Ground, Raipur. under the presidentship of Pt. Ravishankar Shukla and Thakur Singhji was told to address it. He addressed the people and told peasants that not to pay revenues (*Lagaan*) and not to cooperate to British Rule. Thus, as a result Thakur Singh was arrested while delivering speech in the programme and sent for two years of imprisonment in Class-C jail and fined 200 rupees. Because of not paying fine rupees, Thakur Singhji's house properties were seized and his law of advocacy also snatched from him by the British rule. Thakur Singh was the First Advocate of Madhya Pradesh, whose law of advocacy was snatched by the British government. In 1933, Thakurji was set free from the prison and returned back to Raipur. After releasing from the jail, he focused on the re-organization of the Satnami Aashrama in Raipur.<sup>15,16</sup>

❖ **Role in Quit India Movement (1942):**

One of the biggest movements of the independence of India so called 'Quit India Movement' was passed the Congress session of Bombay. Mahatma Gandhiji was given the responsibility to lead the movement. In that movement Gandhiji had given the

famous slogan 'Karo ya Maro' (*Do or die*). But unfortunately, many great leaders including Gandhiji were arrested and put into prison.

The Quit India Movement affected the Chhattisgarh region too, where more than 100 famous leaders were arrested in Raipur and put into Jail. Everywhere people did strikes and huge procession occurred as well all assembled at Gandhi Chaowk (square) in Raipur. In the Raipur city, there were four famous leaders who were not yet been arrested by the British rule namely Pt. Vamanrao Lakhe, Lakshaman Udgirkar, Thakur Pyarelal Singh and Dr. Khubchand Baghel. Pt. Lakhe and Thakur Saheb were gathering in the garden of Udgirkarji daily at evening and made plans and pamphlets were prepared for the success of movement. After some few times, Dr. Bagehl was also arrested and thus, three were still out of the arrest of British rule.<sup>17</sup>

Thakur Singhji urged all students not to give their arrest but continue the movement very fasted ones. On the basis of copy of the proposal of Bombay Session, Thakurji continued to address the people of this region and appealed to participate actively in the Quit India Movement towards the independence of the nation.

In order to make the Quit Indian Movement successful in these areas, two sons of Thakurji namely Ramkrishna Singh and Sachchidanand Singh were put into prison. And his youngest son Hari Thakur after leaving school, went village to village for the propagation of Quit India Movement.<sup>18</sup>

#### ❖ **The First Martyr of Bhoodan Movement of Chhattisgarh region (1954):**

On 18<sup>th</sup> April 1951, the Bhoodan Movement was launched by Acharya Vinoba Bhave at Pochampally in Telangana. The main purpose of Movement was to provide a piece of land to needy and poor people of the nation. After the independent of the nation, it was one of the popular movements which was led by Acharya Bhaveji across the country. According to him all people of the nation have the right on land (*Sabai Bhumi Gopal ki*). The Bhoodan Movement affected a lot to Thakur Pyarelal Singh. In 1952, he was elected as a Member of Legislative Assembly from Raipur. After the election Thakur Singhji joined in the Bhoodan Yagya Movement of Acharya Vinobaji and completed hundreds of padyatra in Madhya Pradesh region till the last breath of his life.<sup>19</sup>

On 11<sup>th</sup> September 1954, two groups of Bhoodan padyatras were about to start in Madhya Pradesh. The first group was led by Thakur Singhji, their group started the journey from Burhanpur to Uttar Pradesh ; and the second group had to move towards South Madhya Pradesh. Before the starting of the journey, Thakur Singhji wrote a letter to Dadabhai Naik in order to continue the Bhoodan Padyatra. The aim of the journey was to complete it within three and half months approximately 2200 miles and delivering the message of Bhoodan Movement in around 300 villages.<sup>20</sup>

Hence, the first group started journey from Burhanpur under the leadership of Thakur Singhji at the age of 64, along with Dadabhai Naik, Shanta Bahin Dongare, Haridas Manzul, Shankardev Manav and Nana Bhise etc. per day they covered 20 miles and delivered 3-4 hours in speeches.

Thakur Singhji walked approximately thousands of villages and came in contact with lakh's of people. In real sense, he was the saint; therefore, the people of Chhattisgarh were called him as the Gandhi of Chhattisgarh. Within two-three years of his Bhoodan journey, Thakurji collected around thousands acres of land for the needy poor people.<sup>21</sup>

On 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1954, Thakur Singhji's group started to move from Karmeta to Jabalpur; while completing half mile of the journey he felt first heart stroke, was told to take some rest there but said everything is fine. From there again started their journey and within the five minutes Thakurji felt second time heart stroke. From there he was taken by a motorbike till Chandalbhata, there also he met all the people those who were waiting to welcome him. In Chandalbhata, Thakurji interacted with them around two hours he walked

by foot in a procession held in the city. From there he was taken by a vehicle to Jabalpur. Without taking any rest after dinner Thakurji met to Seth Govinddas, then delivered speech for half an hour in a conference and next met to Dada Dharmadhikari who had come from Patna to participate in the conference and sat till 9 pm among the various activists of the journey. Suddenly, at 9.10 pm he felt inner pain, unable to breathe also and becoming unconscious. Suddenly after some few time by taking the name of Lord Ram, a great freedom fighter Thakur Pyarelal Singhji took his last breath. From 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. to 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1954, Thakurji completed the Bhoodan padyatra around 400 miles. Thus, Thakur Singhji is considered as the First martyr of Bhoodan Movement.<sup>22</sup>

The dead body of Thakur Singhji was brought by road from Jabalpur to Rajnandgaon at mid night of 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1954. People of Rajnandgaon sadly paid their tribute to their beloved leader and then finally body was brought to Raipur. On 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 1954, at the bank of Kharun river in Raipur, Thakur Singhji's body was cremated. Thus, in Chhattisgarh region a proverb is written truly by Mawli Prasad Srivastava about him that 'Garibo ka Sahara hai, Vahi Thakur hamara hai' (*One who is a helper of poors, that Thakurji is ours*).<sup>23</sup>

#### ❖ Supporter of Chhattisgarh Region:

It was also a dream of Thakur Pyarelal Singh to see a separate state as the Chhattisgarh. Before the Tripuri Session of Indian National Congress, a meeting was held in Bilaspur, in which many famous leaders of this Chhattisgarh region like Thakur Pyarelal Singh, Pt. Sundarlal Sharma, and Barrister Chhedilal had discussion on the separate political identities to Chhattisgarh state; and many other members including Thakur Pyarelal Singh such as Pt. Ramdayal Tiwari, Dr. Jawala Prasad Mishra, Dwarka Prasad Tiwari (Vipra) and so on joined a huge numbers and passed the proposal of the formation of a separate Chhattisgarh state.

In the year 1946, Thakur Pyarelal Singh founded the Riyasati Movement and became the president of struggle committee in order to create the Chhattisgarh Riyasati Movement. In 1946 onwards, he visited to various princely states of Chhattisgarh for the development of consciousness of people.

#### Conclusion:

In real sense, freedom fighter Thakur Pyarelal Singh played a vital role on the various national level movements against the British rule in order to set free the nation. He was a real patriotic great leader, one who served the nation without any selfish motives to the people of these regions. He played an important role in the independence of the nation in order to set free. He was the leader of students, labours, and peasants. He will be always remembered as a nation building. After the formation of a new Chhattisgarh State, in memorance of Thakur Singhji, the 'Thakur Pyarelal Singh honor' is given per year by the Government of Chhattisgarh to a person for the outstanding performance in the field of Co-operative sector. Thus, he was a great freedom fighter, founder of cooperative and labour movements and the first martyr of Bhoodan Yagya movement.

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