

Economic thoughts of Subhas Chandra Bose

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Abstract

Subhas Chandra Bose was great patriot of India and always considered as great visionary in political arena. His initial phase of political career was growing under the vision of M.K. Gandhi the great political leader of India. He also found the J.N. Nehru as a political friend with tough idea of socialism (before 1938). However in later phase both close companions were disguised certain political ideology. But in India it was the issue of intense debate what is the economic thought of Bose. Because many Indian and foreigner explore the Gandhi and Nehru's economic aspects. Bose economic are in the dark corner of the Indian history. In this study tried to explore the dark corner of Bose life related to economic aspects, through his work which were compiled by his forthcoming generation or prominent historians.

Keywords: British, Congress, Economic, Gandhi, Nehru, Planning, Policy, Revolutionary, Subhas Bose, thought

Introduction

Subhas Chandra Bose was considered as great leader of India as well as World. He was always considered as a radical and total revolutionary freedom fighter. Due to actively participation in public related matter, he mostly engaged with congress mass movement and trade union. Subhas Bose didn't have much time to express his view on Economic planning but when Bose become congress president than he was first in Indian history appointed a *Economic Planning Committee* for complete review of economic conditions of country and economic opportunities. His many speeches in India and abroad also reflected solidity of his economic thoughts.

First time he came with economic issues, in his trade article, '*50 years of Indo-British trade (1875-76 to 1925-26)*'. He analyzed the gravity of import and export; which have big impact on countries economic planning and balance of trade. He was analyzed initially trade grow but after a time period trade shown decline due to various reasons. He analyzed the difference between import and export. In the evaluation of trade he concluded, that the export of large quantity of goods or raw materials but it was less in monetary form. However, Britain export to India in less quantity but greater in monetary value, he said "it is true that the share of Great Britain has always been large in our imports than in our export, but smaller as the volume of exports. He was also considering Britain supremacy as reason of this difference, because trade entirely depends upon British shipping, banks and insurance".

The agriculture policy of the government was also depends upon the encouragement of cultivation of raw materials and food grains. Due to lack of industrialisation in India, other developed countries saw a storehouse of raw materials, which became a foster to their manufacturing industries. The single article, raw cotton, has represented more than 50% of India's total imports from the Britain. Bose explain changes, "In the earlier days, raw cotton occupied the first place among the objects of export. Right down to 1884-85, the output and export of which were being highly encouraged by the

establishment and progress of the jute manufacturing industry in Dundee, held the first place. Then, the export of tea which was fast driving away the Chinese stuff from the British market along with the rapid growth of the newly established Indian industry, took the place of honour for the first time in 1890-91. Thus in 1890-91, tea, food grains, raw jute and cotton respectively occupied the first four places, the value of the exports of each of these being between 4 and 5 crores of rupees."

Bose also take responsibility but he did not consider the possible reaction or effects of recent impact in the Swadeshi movement on trade. More freely view represented by Bose at Presidential address at the Karachi Conference of the All India Naujawan Bharat Sabha, in this he directly attacked on Congress policies and programme he said,

The fundamental weakness in the Congress policy and programme is that there is a great deal of vagueness and mental reservation in the minds of the leaders. Their programme is based not on radicalism but on adjustments; adjustments between landlord and the tenant, between the capitalist and the wage-earner, between the so-called upper classes and the so-called depressed classes, between men and women. So this strong statement showed the he was against the economic reservation and favors to equality in all means for this he further came out with standard police frame work. He expressed, I do not believe that the Congress programme can win freedom for India. The programme by which I believe freedom can be achieved through some radical changed programmed such as following.

1. Organization of peasants and workers on a socialistic programme.
2. Organisation of youth into Volunteer Corps under strict discipline.
3. Abolition of the caste system and the eradication of social and religious superstitions of all kinds.
4. Organisation of women's associations for getting our womenfolk to accept the gospel and work out the new programme.
5. Intensive programme for boycott of British goods.

6. Country-wide propaganda for explaining the new cult and for organising a new party.
7. Creation of new literature for propagating the new cult and programme.

Such noted point clearly indicated the conceptual framework which was important to change in Congress policy. However on economic bases only important point was boycott of British goods. Which were not the new idea, but continuously adopted by the Indian politics from the starting of Swadeshi movement to Non- Cooperation movement. But interestingly he emphasized the participation of youth of country.

In another occasion he presented his views on the other important aspect which directly related to economic issues and made the vehicle of change which mostly followed by the Marxist. This was related to the economic rights of labour. In his presidential address at the All India Trade Union session in Calcutta, he point out, "Labour today wants the right to work. It is the duty of the state to provide employment to the citizens and where the State fails to perform this duty it should accept the responsibility of maintaining them. In other words, the worker citizen cannot be at the mercy of the employer to be thrown out on the streets at his sweet will and made to starve. The industry of the country is today faced with a crisis owing to the application of the axe". He further said at same venue, Until India wins her freedom and establishes a democratic; if not socialistic; Government, no ameliorative programme for the benefit of labour can be given effect to.

Subhas Bose hadn't much time to express his, economy or economic planning of country, because he was involved more important work specially politically Freedom for India. Because his thought was, all economic planning and programme only effectively implemented in independent country. In the presidential address of Indian national Congress held at Haripura in 1938, Subash Chandra Bose came out with more organization planning thought. He expressed, "the very first thing which our future National Government will have to do, would be to set up a Commission for drawing up a comprehensive plan of reconstruction." R.C. Roy concluded the Bose presidential speech such as, 'Bose wanted that on the advice of the National Planning Commission, State would adopt a comprehensive scheme for gradually socialization our entire agricultural and industrial system in the spheres of both production and distribution. His steps about abolition landlordism and liquidation of agricultural indebtedness'^[1].

Speech delivered at All Malai Chettiars and other India Merchants Conference on 25 October 1943, He warned merchant and wealthy persons, he said "I am really surprised to hear that there are a few people who were saying that it years for them to amass their money and that they have many children to provide for. If on this account they had refused to make sacrifices, in a free India under a free Government, I would ask you to imagine, what would have happened to them, surely, they would have been regarded and treated as enemies. You could be either friend or foe. Do not think that only the Britishers are our enemies. Everyone who helps the Britishers, everyone who refuse to help our cause, is also our enemy because we are engaged in a life and death struggle today".

Such strong attitude showed by Bose informed the gravity of concern economic causes. He also argued on the some important basic issued which were very important for masses. He put forwarded his idea in very theoretically. He said, "the problem of giving bread to our starving million, the problem of clothing and educating them, the problem of improving the health and physique of the nation. All these problems cannot be solved so long as India remains in bondage. To think of economic improvement and industrial development before India is free, politically is to put the cart before horse." He also understood the necessity of modernization the backward agriculture which in turn would aggravate the problem of disguised unemployment and to remedy this development if industry would be indispensable to absorb the surplus labor from agriculture. He was much impressed by the exemplary success attained by the U.S.S.R in effecting economic development through rapid industrialization within a short period of time.

Conclusion

Subhas Chandra Bose above forethought showing he was a revolutionary with having courage of economic. He also understands very well the economic structure of country. However like Gandhi and Nehru he did not have much time to showing clarity in economic ideology. But Bose successfully pass his ideas to the followers. Bose attitude different from the other shown his speeches, particularly when, he warning a particular group of Indian masses, probably those were having interest only to making money from poor country people. Such type of strong arguments elated to upper class not seen in the Congress forethought. However Bose particularly known as strong audacity in political affairs in India and internationally, he also proved it. With political audacity his economic forethought are also important. Due to less research work those lying in the dark corner of economic history.

References

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