Nehru or Bose Who Was India's 1st PM Kangna's Controversy

Why In News

- Kangana Ranaut, in a recent interview, claimed that **Subhas Chandra Bose**, not Jawaharlal Nehru, was the first prime minister of independent India.
- After being criticised for the historicity (or lack thereof) of her comments, Kangana doubled down, citing the provisional government setup by Bose in 1943 as evidence of her claim.

Kangana Ranaut (Modi Ka Parivar) ✔
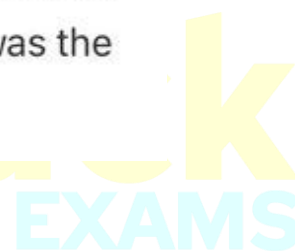@KanganaTeam   ...

All those who are giving me gyan on first PM of Bharata do read this screen shot here's some general knowledge for the beginners, all those geniuses who are asking me to get some education must know that I have written, acted, directed a film called Emergency which primarily revolves around Nehru family so no mansplaining please 🙏
If I speak way ahead of your IQ you assume I must be uninformed, well the joke is on you and it's a lame one!! (yawn)🤭

The freedom fighter, popularly known as Netaji, had on October 21, 1943 formed a government of Azad Hind (Free India) in Singapore. Subhas Chandra Bose declared himself as the Prime Minister, the Head of State, and the Minister of War while making the announcement came during World War II.

Captain Dr. Lakshmi Swaminadhan was the minister in charge of the women's organisation. She also commanded the Rani Jhansi Regiment, a brigade of women soldiers fighting for the Indian National Army. The Rani Jhansi regiment was the first women-only battle regiment in Asia.

The Azad Hind government

- **Subhas Chandra Bose** proclaimed the formation of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind ("Free India") in **Singapore on October 21, 1943.**
- "In the name of God, in the name of bygone generations who have welded the Indian people into one nation, and in the name of the dead heroes who have bequeathed to us a tradition of heroism and self- sacrifice — we call upon the Indian people to rally round our banner and strike for India's freedom," Bose said in a fiery speech in **the Cathay Theatre.**
- Bose was the **Head of State** of this provisional government, and held the foreign affairs and war portfolios. **A C Chatterjee** was in charge of finance**, S A Ayer** became minister of publicity and propaganda, and **Lakshmi Swaminathan** was given the ministry of women's affairs. A number of officers from Bose's Azad Hind Fauj were also given cabinet posts.

- The **Azad Hind government** claimed authority over all Indian civilian and military personnel in Britain's Southeast Asian colonies (primarily Burma, Singapore, and Malaya) which had fallen into Japanese hands during World War II. It also claimed prospective authority over all Indian territory that would be taken by Japanese forces, and Bose's Azad Hind Fauj, as they attacked British India's northeastern frontier.
- To give **legitimacy to his government**, much like Charles de Gaulle had declared sovereignty over some islands in the Atlantic for the Free French, Bose chose the Andamans.

- "It [the Azad Hind government] obtained de jure control over a piece of Indian territory when the Japanese handed over the **Andaman and Nicobar islands** in late December 1943, though de facto military control was not relinquished by the Japanese admiralty," Sugata Bose wrote.

- The government also handed out citizenship to Indians living in Southeast Asia, and according to Sugata Bose, **30,000 expatriates** pledged allegiance to it in Malaya alone.

- **Diplomatically, Bose's government** was recognised by the Axis powers and their satellites: Germany, Japan, and Italy, as well as Nazi and Japanese puppet states in Croatia, China, Thailand, Burma, Manchuria, and the Philippines. Immediately after its formation, the Azad Hind government declared war on Britain and the United States.
- **Much like Bose allied with the Axis powers** during World War II to fight the British, during World War I, Indian nationalists abroad (mostly in Germany and the US), as well as revolutionaries and Pan-Islamists from India, attempted to further the cause of Indian independence with aid from the Central Powers.

Other Provisional Governments

- Setting up provisional governments, and governments-in-exile, has long been a way for resistance movements to gain political legitimacy. Take, for example, the **Central Tibetan Administration** (CTA) in Dharamshala. The very purpose of this government-in-exile is to challenge the legitimacy of the Chinese occupation of Tibet.

- By running a **parallel government** which claims to represent the will of the Tibetan people, the CTA keeps the flame of resistance burning, even when brutal repression and government-sponsored Han migration in Tibet has made things difficult.
- Similarly, both the 1915 and 1943 provisional governments were, more than anything else, symbolic acts of defiance against British rule in India, made with certain political considerations kept in mind.

- **Bose proclaimed the Azad Hind government** in order to legitimise his armed struggle against the British. By proclaiming a provisional government, he gave his army legitimacy in the eyes of international law — they were not just mutineers or revolutionaries, but soldiers of a duly constituted government.

Crucially, citizenship oaths taken by Azad Hind Fauj officers were produced during the 1945-46 Red Fort trials as evidence of legality of their actions.

Conclusion

- **Neither of the two** can, in any seriousness, be called the Government of India. This is for two main reasons. First, both these governments failed to gain widespread international recognition.

- While some countries did recognise and support them, they did so for their own motives. After the World Wars (in which the British emerged victorious), this support swiftly vanished.
- **Second, both these governments** never controlled Indian territory. While Bose did officially hold the Andamans, effectively, the islands were still under Japanese occupation. So was all the territory in the Northeast captured (briefly) by the combined Indian and Japanese armies.