**The jehad movement of Syed Ahmed Brelvi and Shah Ismail Shahid**

**Write a note on Mujahddin Movements.**

In the history of Sub-Continent Jihad Movement (Tehreek Mujahideen) is considered a milestone. This movement was not only for the revival of Jihad for the destruction of British rule in India but also for the purification of Muslim Society.

**Founder of Mujahideen Movement:**

Syed Ahmed Barailvi the founder of this movement was the inheritor of the mantle of Shah Abdul Aziz. He was born on October 24, 1786 in a respectable family of Rai Barily.

**Beginning of Career:**

From the very beginning he had an inclination of becoming a solider rather than endeavoring to become renowned scholar or mystic as did his predecessors. Syed Abmed began his career as a Sawar in the service of Nawab Amir Khan, the ruler of Tonk in 1810. During his service Syed Ahmed learnt military discipline and strategy which made him a great military commander in the years to come.

Syed Ahmed was extremely dismayed to see the decline of the Muslims in their religious and ideological commitments. He earnestly desired to see the restoration of the supremacy of Islam in India. The purpose of his life and struggle was not confined to the spread of Islam by preaching only, but he believed in taking practical steps for this purpose. The main objective before Syed Ahmed was the establishment of a state which was based on Islamic principles. In 1823, he started Jihad Movement.

**Preparation for Jihad against Sikhs:**

In the time of Syed Ahmed Punjab was ruled by the Sikh ruler Ranjit Singh who was regarded as an autocratic and tyrannical King. The Muslims heavily suffered under his tyrannical rule and were denied liberty and freedom to perform and practice their religion. The N.W.F.P. had also fallen to the Sikh domination and was included in the Sikh regime. The holy places of the Muslims i.e. mosques shrines were turned into temples and stables, by the Sikh regime. Azan was forbidden and the religious practices of the Muslims were interrupted frequently. Syed Ahmed did not confine himself to Delhi but also visited the neighbouring places. During one of his visits to Rampur, some Afghans complained to him about the wide-scale persecution of the Muslims by the Sikh regime Syed Ahmed decided to launch his Jihad movement against the Sikh regime on his return from Haj. Syed. Ahmed left for Makkah in 1821 along with Maulana Ismail Shaheed, Maulana Abdul Haye and a large number of followers and admirers to perform Haj. Syed Ahmed performed haj and remained absent for nearly two years. They returned to Delhi and the preparation for Jihad against the Sikhs began.

**Objectives of Jihad Movement:**

Following were the objectives of Jihad Movement:

1. Establishment of Islamic Rule in the Sub-Continent and end of Sikh Rule.

2. Reformation of Muslim Society.

3. Restoration of Jihad.

4. Advice of Simple Ways of Living

5. End of Innovations in Islam

6. Struggle against the Conspiracies of Christian Missionaries.

**Gorilla Activities:**

From 1827 to 1831, the Mujahideen started gorilla activities against Sikhs and inflicted great losses upon them.

**Sikh Conspiracy against Syed Sahib:**

The Jihad movement went through the early stages of struggle with amazing success. At this time a conspiracy was hatched against the Jihad movement. Sardar Yar Muhammad was bribed to betray Syed Sahib and join the Sikhs against Mujahideen. The Sikhs brought pressure on Yar Muhammad Khan who tried to poison Syed Ahmed which he survived. In 1829 Yar Muhammad was killed in an encounter against the Mujahideen.

**Balakot Fight and Martyrdom of Syed Ahmed:**

After relinquishing Peshawar, Syed Ahmed shifted to Balakot and began his movement from Rajauri in 1831. Balakot is a small town in the Mansehra division and falls in the Hazara district. The Mujahideen were attacked by the Sikh army under the command of General Sher Singh. A fierce battle was fought between the Sikhs and the Muslims. The Mujahideen fought bravely but could not stand the much stronger and superior forces.

With the death of Syed Ahmed the Jihad movement could not be carried out with the old enthusiasm. The Jihad movement did not die after defeat at Balakot. Some of his disciples struggled to continue the movement and were successful to a certain extent. But the movement extremely lacked in organized leadership after Syed‟s death and, therefore could not be conducted for a long time.

**Causes of Failure:**

Although Jihad Movement was a sincere effort for the restoration of Islamic glory in the Sub-Continent yet it met with failure for the following reasons:

1. Lack of proper training of Mujahideen

2. Lack of funds and Equipment

3. Well equipped and large Sikh Army

4. Deceit of Pathan Chiefs

5. Local Controversies on Implementation of Tax after the Establishment of Khilafat

6. Sikh Conspiracies and Secret Opposition of The British

7. Lack of Leadership after the Martyrdom of Syed Ahmed and Shah Ismail

**Conclusion:**

No doubt Jihad Movement remained unsuccessful but it affected the Muslim Mentality on a large scale. Mujahideen fought for the cause of Islam even without proper training and sufficient equipment. Their sacrifices not only inspired the Muslims to think about the renaissance of Islam but also made them aware of the prevailing political situations in the Sub-Continent. In short we can say Tehreek Mujahideen paved the way for the Muslim struggle for freedom.