

GOVERNMENT GIRLS COLLEGE, BETUL

EBSB PROGRAM DECEMBER 2022

Name of Activity: Nupi-Lal

No. of student:- 20

Date 31-12-2022

Nupi Lan –which means women's war in Manipuri- is one of the important movements in the history of Manipuri women. It showed the new seeds of economic and political reforms for a new Manipur in the early 40's. They were the most important buyers and sellers in the main market Khwairamband Bazar. Women played important roles not only in the economic activities but in the political reforms of Manipur also. Under their aggressive pressure, the British had to withdraw the use of forced labour in 1904. They also involved in the wide spread demonstration against the increase of Water-Tax.



Manipur was lost in the Anglo-Manipuri War in 1891 and came under British control in 1907. Consequently there was a large scale export of rice to its neighbouring states. But considering the limited amount of rice produced in the valley, exporting was regulated by the state government. The rice exported per unit acre of cultivated land increased phenomenally from 1921 to 1938. A precarious situation was reached in 1939 when there was an all record of the highest export of rice. In 1939, there was the outbreak of the World War II which swept the world over.



Thousands of women gathered around the State Durbar Office asking for the immediate stoppage of rice export by shouting slogans. When the President told that the order of banning the rice-export couldn't be done without the order from the Maharaj, the women took him to the telegraph office and confined him there. Some 21 women were injured from the bayonets and butts of the soldiers' weapons. They urged the Durbar to ban all rice export completely as the Maharaja's message did not give any clear indication of banning all the various groups of exporters or recipients of rice.

As Nupi Lan broke out, young political activities like L. Kanhai and T. Ibotombi of Nikhil Manipur Mahasabha started to discuss the issues of the women's agitation. When Irabot arrived on Dec. 16th, the women received the male support, which were in a dormant state till then. The handling of the women's boycott of Khwairamband Bazar had some appreciation of the militancy of Manipuri women.

Most of the population of Imphal fled for safety as the II World War approached. But the boycott itself came to an end with most of the people fleeing for safety.