

Pak Affairs GC-E-2023:

Question No. 2. Discuss the evolution and development of separate electorate system. Can it be termed to be the harbingers of the idea of a separate homeland for the Muslims.

Introduction

Muslims were generous to the Hindu Community during their rule of several hundred of years. After their defeat in the war of independence the role of the Hindu and British remained totally negative against the Muslims. This compelled Muslims of the subcontinent to fight for their rights. The evolution and development of separate electorate system has a great importance in the history of Pakistan. The separate Electorate system brought awareness of separatism and supported two Nation theory. This can be termed as harbingers of the idea of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent.

Evolution and Development of Separate Electorate System

Separate Electorate System ~ Defining the term

The separate electorate system was implemented as a mechanism to address the concerns of various religious communities, particularly Muslims, regarding political representation and safeguards for their distinct identity.

1. Rise of Indian Nationalism ~ Language Controversy and aggressive administration in Bengal

Right from 1867, when some influential Hindus of Banaras started crusade against Urdu language and in 1905 when Bengal was partitioned by Lord Curzon, the aggressive administration of Hindus had disillusioned the Muslims to demand for their rights through separate electorate.

2. First Step towards Separate Electorate System ~ Through Services of Leaders

Under the leadership of Sir Agulshan at Simla Deputation (1906) the demand of separate electorate system took place first time. Further, the personalities like Sir Muneer Ali played important role to reform British administration

and demand for increase in Muslim participation known as Minto-Morley Reforms 1909.

3. Foundation of Communal Representation in Lucknow Pact (1916)

Lucknow Pact was an agreement between All India Muslim League (AIML) and Indian National Congress in 1916, included provisions for separate electorates for Hindus and Muslims. This pact laid the foundation of communal representation, recognizing the distinct feature political identity of Muslims.

4. Reinforcement of Political Representation based on religious identity

Government of India Act 1935 formalize and extended the separate electorate system. It provide reserved seats for different religious communities - Muslims - in legislative bodies.

5. Demand of separate political entity

The All India Muslim League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, argues to constitute

a separate nation for muslim community.
As he believe in distinct political, cultural
and social identity for Muslims.

6. Outcome of Separate Electorate ~ Pakistan

Separate electorate system resulted
into the establishment of separate
Muslim state where they have freedom
in every aspect of life.

Separate Electorate System as a Harbinger of the idea of a Separate homeland for the Muslims

1. Established a sense of being a different Nation

Separate electorate system can be
termed as harbinger of the idea of
a separate homeland for the Muslims as
it create awareness among the muslims
of subcontinent that they were a different

nation from Hindus and on the basis of this they can get separate homeland.

2. Becomes a base for separate homeland

Separate electorate system becomes a base for establishing a separate homeland for Muslims. As being participants of government they were gradually demanding their rights which led them to create a base for their homeland.

3. Established identity of Muslims

Muslims were deprived from any rights in the subcontinent. However, with the efforts of leaders, the separate electorate systems create an identity of Muslims in the subcontinent.

4. Established political and historical importance for Muslims of South Asia

Separate electorate system lead towards the establishment of separate Muslim state - Pakistan - its creation

reminds everyone the political and historical importance of Muslims of South Asia.

5. Safeguarded the rights of Muslims

With the efforts of leaders, the separate electorate system provided the safeguard rights of Muslims - which were deprived of any rights in the subcontinent. This vision led them towards Pakistan.

6. Succeeded to provide share of Power

Electrate System provided Muslims a share of power in governance, which led them to ask for their demand and gradually led them towards independence.

Conclusion

Separate electorate system was evaluated and developed by the efforts of leaders of Muslims in the subcontinent through All-India Muslim League. Separate electorate system proved harbinger for Muslims for the establishment of separate state for Muslims that gives freedom to them.