

# BPSL Past paper.

## PAK Affairs

Q: Write a note on Cabinet Mission plan. (20)

Ans:

### 1) Exordium:

The Cabinet Mission, dispatched by the British government in 1946, played a crucial role in shaping the political future of British India. It was a pivotal movement in India's struggle for independence and played a significant role in shaping the country's future.

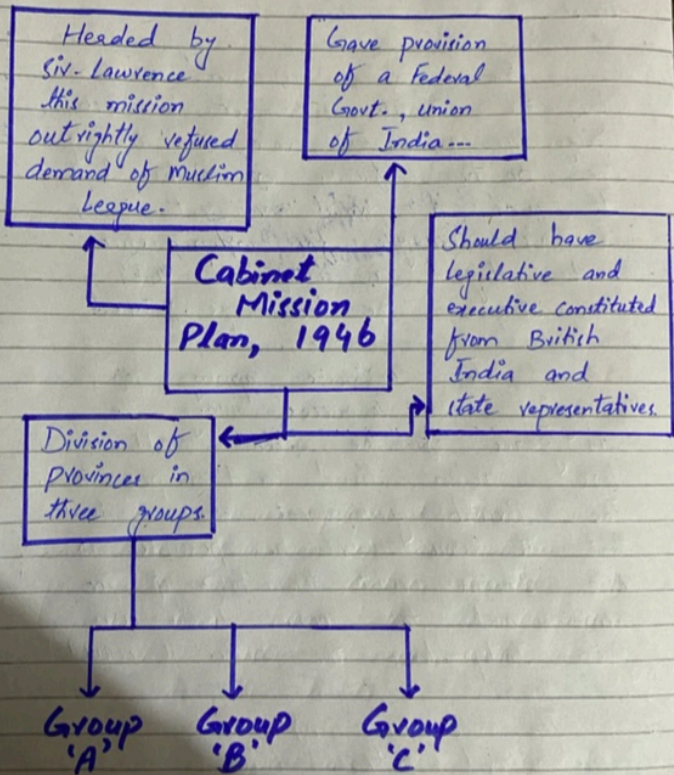
### 2) Background:

The continuous sapping of energies and resources during the six years of the Second World War left Britain tired and impoverished. The British government now realised that it would not be possible to rule India with the help of the army and the sooner India was given independence the better it would be.

### 3) Formation of the Cabinet Mission:

The Secretary of State for India Lord Pethick Lawrence on Feb, 1946, announced the formation of the Cabinet Mission to solve the Indian political tangle. The Cabinet

Mission consisted of A.V. Alexander, Pethick Lawrence and Stafford Cripps.



#### 4) Objectives:

The primary objective of the Cabinet

Mission was to propose a Constitutional framework that would satisfy the aspirations of both the Congress and the Muslim League and pave the way for India's independence. It aimed to find a solution that would preserve the unity of India while accommodating the Muslim League's concerns about the rights and representation of Muslims.

### 5) Key proposals:

The Cabinet Mission presented a comprehensive plan in May, 1946, which included the following proposals:

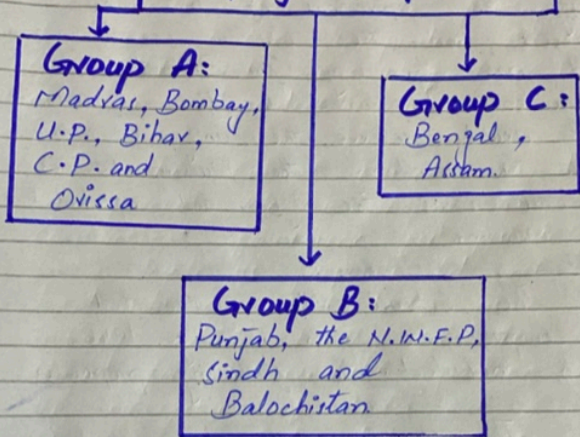
#### (i) Union of India:

The mission proposed a united, independent and self-governing India, comprising both Hindu-majority and Muslim-majority provinces. This union was to have a federal structure with a strong center handling defense, foreign affairs and communications.

#### (ii) Grouping of Provinces:

To address the Muslim League's demand for a separate nation, the mission proposed the formation of three groups of provinces. i.e., A, B and C respectively.

## Grouping of provinces



### (iii) Interim Government:

The Mission proposed the immediate formation of an interim government at the center, consisting of representatives from both the Congress and the Muslim League, with the viceroy as the head.

### (iv) Interim Gov. Autonomy for Provinces:

The provinces were granted autonomy and the right to form their own groups for certain purposes. Each group would have its own constitution.

## 6) Response and Controversies:

The Indian National Congress initially accepted the Cabinet Mission proposals with reservations, the All-India Muslim League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, had fundamental disagreements with the mission's recommendations.

## 7) Failure and Aftermath:

The Mission's recommendations faced challenges and were not fully implemented. The differences between the Congress and the Muslim League persisted, leading to communal tensions and violent outbreaks across the country. Eventually, the Congress formed an interim government without the participation of the Muslim League, and the path towards partition became inevitable.

## 8) Mountbatten plan:

With the situation deteriorating, the last British viceroy, Lord Louis Mountbatten proposed a new plan in 1947, leading to the partition of British India and the creation of India and Pakistan.

## 9) Legacy:

The Mission's proposals, though

not implemented as intended, laid the ground-work for subsequent developments, influencing the framing of the Indian Independence Act of 1947 and the subsequent creation of two independent nations.

### 10) **Conclusion:**

The Cabinet Mission played a pivotal role in shaping the constitutional framework for post-independence India. While its proposals did not lead to a united India as initially envisioned, they set the stage for the eventual partition and the emergence of India and Pakistan as independent nations.