

## Pakistan Affairs # 4

Q: Discuss the 3<sup>rd</sup> June Plan or Mountbatten Plan and also describe how it was implemented? (Cxs 2018)

### INTRODUCTION:

3<sup>rd</sup> June Plan is also known as 'Partition Plan' or 'Mountbatten Plan'. This plan was introduced by 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1947 that's why is known as 3<sup>rd</sup> June Plan. The 3<sup>rd</sup> June Plan was basically about the transfer of Power to two dominion states i.e. India and Pakistan.

### MUSLIMS RESISTANCE PAVED WAY FOR PAKISTAN:

Quaid-e-Azam was of the opinion that the demand for Pakistan is being supported by all the Muslims of India. Congress after observing the inward and outside conditions of the interim government realised that the demand of Pakistan is the only solution to communal problems. British tried to revive the already dead cabinet

mission plan. But they failed in doing so. That's why they agreed to prepare a plan for the transferring of power.

### **PLAN TO TRANSFER POWER:**

On 22 March 1947, Lord Mountbatten assumed the charge of the first Governor General of India. British Prime Minister 'Clement Attlee' entrusted him with the duty to draft a plan for the partition. Lord Mountbatten while addressing the Indians told that he will transfer the power to Indians not after June 1948. In April 1947, he drafted a plan for transferring of power which was named as '3rd June Plan' or 'Partition Plan'.

### **PLAN TO BESTOW FULL DOMINION STATUS UPON TWO SUCCESSOR STATES:**

British plan to bestow full dominion status upon two successor states i.e. India and Pakistan, which are formed from the Muslim majority provinces. The plan also includes that the

primarily states will decide to either join India or Pakistan. The plan was accepted by both Muslim and Hindu leaders. But Nehru, who was with Mountbatten rejected the plan.

### NEHRU EDITED MENON'S FORMULA:

V. P. Menon, the only Hindu person in Lord Mountbatten's personal staff, was entrusted with the job to prepare a new plan after Nehru rejected the plan. Menon prepared a new plan. Nehru edited Menon's formula. After that, Lord Mountbatten himself took it to London for approval. The Prime Minister and his cabinet approved the plan. The plan basically reflected the mind of a Hindu. After approval the plan was discussed with six Indian leaders i.e. Nehru, Patel, Kripalani, Quaid-e-Azam, Liaquat Ali Khan, Nishtar, Baldev Singh. The plan was approved.

### THE MAIN POINTS OF THE PLAN:

The major points of the Plan

included:

Q

1. The Provincial Legislative Assembly of the Punjab and Bengal were to be meet in two sessions i.e muslim majority districts, non-muslim majority districts. If any one of them agree to partition, then partition of both Bengal and Punjab will occur and the Governor General will form a 'Boundary Commission' to demarcate boundaries.

A

2. The Legislative Assembly of Sindh will decide either to stay in the existing assembly or to join the new legislative assembly.

3. The Province of North West Frontier Province will hold referendum in order to decide whether they want to join Pakistan.

4. Baluchistan through Jirga will decide their course.

5. In case of partition of Bengal, the Sylhet district of Assam will hold a plebiscite to decide either they

want to stay with Assam or want to join East Bengal.

### **HASTE, BUT NOT ALL WASTE:**

British Government announced date 15 August 1947 as the date for transferring of power, which was ten months earlier. It was a hasty decision, but not all waste.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE PLAN:**

The plan of 3<sup>rd</sup> June was introduced and now it needed to be implemented. The British Government on 14 July, introduced the 'Government Independence Act of 1947'. The plan was implemented in the following manner.

### **PUNJAB AND BENGAL:**

Punjab and Bengal were partitioned into East and West Punjab and Bengal. West Punjab and East Bengal became part of Pakistan. Their boundaries were demarcated through a boundary

Commission.

## **SINDH:**

Sindh through legislative assembly decided to become part of Pakistan.

## **BALUCHISTAN:**

Through jirga, Baluchistan choose Pakistan and became part of Pakistan.

## **NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVIN- -CE:**

A <sup>o</sup> referendum was conducted in North West Frontier Province. Despite Congress opposition, North West Frontier province chooses Pakistan.

## **SYHLET DISTRICT OF ASSAM:**

Syhet district of Assam through plebiscite became part of Pakistan.

## **PRINCELY STATES:**

Most of the 500 princely states either joined India or

Pakistan. The decision was based on geographical proximity and the religious majority. But the situation of three princely states were problematic. These princely states were:

### 1. HYDERABAD:

Hyderabad was ruled by a Muslim but the population was Hindu. However, it was absorbed into India.

### 2. JUNAGARH:

Junagarh situation was similar to Hyderabad. The ruler was Muslim but the population was Hindu. It was also unwillingly absorbed into India.

### 3. JAMMU AND KASHMIR:

The situation of Jammu and Kashmir was different from Hyderabad and Junagarh. Here, the ruler was Hindu but the population was majorly Muslims. The situation could not be resolved peacefully and the conflict over

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/20\_\_\_

this region still prevails.

### **CONCLUSION:**

In a nutshell, the 3rd June plan was a partition plan which resulted into the independence of Pakistan from both India and British. Pakistan came into existence having provinces such as Punjab, Bengal (West Punjab and East Bengal), Sindh, Baluchistan and North West Frontier Provinces.