

Q: Critically examine Congress Ministries of 1937. How far it is correct to suggest that it paved the way for a separate Muslim homeland in India? (CSS-2019)

INTRODUCTION:

The election of 1937 was one of the significant event in the modern political history of sub-continent. For the first time Congress was able to form a responsible government of their own. However, these congress ministries were full of controversies. The Congress Raj ultimately paved way for the separate muslim homeland in India.

CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF CONGRESS MINISTRIES OF 1937:

In February 1937 election was conducted. Both main parties Congress and All India Muslim League participated in the election.

ELECTION SCENARIO:

Date: 1/20

Congress and All India Muslim League enthusiastically participated in the election. Congress was financially supported by Hindu Capitalist and had a strong propaganda machinery. But, on the other hand, All India Muslim League didn't get any financial support. Also there was only one newspaper named as 'Star of India' to counter Congress propagandas.

ELECTION RESULT:

The result of the election was quite unexpected. Congress won 711 seats out of 1758 seats. Congress gain majority in five provinces i.e Bihar, Madras, CP, UP, Orissa. While in Bombay Congress formed coalition government with other small parties.

SETTING UP OF GOVERNMENT.

-I:

Government was set up after winning the election by Congress. However, before the election it was perceived that a

Date: / / 20

Coalition government of Congress and All India Muslim League will be formed but unexpectedly the result was quite opposite and Congress won majority in five provinces. But in province where the Congress was in minority, there they formed coalition government. Congress offered Muslim League for coalition government but on some conditions. These conditions were too harsh for the Muslim League to accept. Therefore Quaid-Azam outrightly rejected those conditions. Those conditions were basically an attempt to dissolve Muslim League in Congress. Abul Kalam Azad himself said, "If the Up's condition were accepted by the Muslim League, then Muslim League would be dissolved into Congress."

**CONGRESS MINISTRIES OF 1937
led to SEPARATE MUSLIM HOMELAND
-ND IN INDIA:**

The Congress ministries of 1937

is said to have paved the way for a separate Muslim homeland in India. It is evident from the fact that Muslims suffered a lot during Congress rule, which developed in them the sense that Muslims should have a separate homeland in India.

How Congress Ministries of 1937 led to separate Muslim Homeland in India?

Harsh policies of Congress

Muslims suffered a lot

Ultimately, paved way for separate homeland

POLICIES OF CONGRESS:

After the election, Congress changed their policies. Congress adopted 'Dictatorial policies' which led to the suffering of Muslims at the hand of Congress.

According to Nehru,

"Congress will now adopt dictatorial policies and it does not believe in coalition or co-operative government."

1. CONGRESS CONSPIRACIES AGAINST AIML:

Congress started its efforts against AIML. Congress wanted to completely remove All India Muslim League as a separate party and tried to dissolve it in Congress.

2. REFUSAL TO FORM COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH MUSLIM LEAGUE:

Congress after winning the election refused to form coalition government with Muslim League.

Congress wanted to make Muslims suffer as they suffered during Muslims' rule.

3. **TARANGA AS NATIONAL FLAG:**

After assuming power Congress declared Tricolor (Taranga) as a national flag.

4. **BANDE-MATARAM AS NATIONAL SONG:**

Congress also declared Bande-Mataram as a National Song. To add insult to injury, Congress declared that before every assembly session, Bande-Mataram song will be played. It was basically a declaration of war against Muslims.

According to Lord Zetland:

"Bande-Mataram was basically a declaration of war against Muslims. Hindu's will was that Muslims should sing this song with love and affection was similar to asking Chozoslovakia

and Poland to come together against the common enemy Hitler."

5. WARDA EDUCATIONAL SCHEME:

Congress also introduced a report named as 'Warda Educational Scheme'. This scheme basically aimed to brain wash Muslims. In this educational scheme co-education and learning of Muslims music was made compulsory.

According to Maulvi Fazlul-Haq:

"My Anjuman representatives visited the school and they were astonished to see that both Hindu and Muslim students were offering their prayers in front of the statue of Goddess 'Saraswati' and Muslim students greeted with 'Namaste' or 'Jay Ram G ki' instead of 'Assalamo-alaikum'."

6. VIDYA MANDAR SCHEME:

Another scheme introduced by Congress was 'Vidya Mandas Scheme'. This scheme was similar to wada educational scheme in intent and purpose. This scheme made teaching compulsory in vernacular language.

7- Kill Urdu Policy:

Congress also introduced kill Urdu policy. Although the controversy of Hindi-Urdu existed long ago but Congress seems this opportunity as a the best one to kill Urdu. Pandit Nehru initially was in favor of Hindustani language but then he shifted toward Hindi language.

According to Nehru:

"The national movement will gain impetus by the Hindi language."

8- Economic Exploitation:

After assuming power, Congress started economic exploitation of Muslims. Now

doors of economic employment were closed for Muslims.

9- RELIGIOUS INTERFERENCE

In Congress governed provinces, policy of religious interference was started.

Congress banned cow slaughter and also introduced criminal law for those who didn't follow the suit.

10. NEHRU'S MASS CONTACT CAMPAIGN:

Nehru started direct contact with Muslims. The reason behind this direct mass contact was to brainwash Muslims, and tried to remove their prejudice against Muslims.

POLICIES LED TO THE DEMAND OF SEPARATE MUSLIM HOMELAND IN INDIA:

Resultantly, the harsh policies of Congress developed a deep sense of insecurity among.

Date: _____

Muslims. Muslims started to
alienate themselves from Hindu.
It was the time when the
notion of Muslim nationalism
gained impetus. The Congress
Raj completely exposed the
Hindu mentality. After seeing
the harsh attitude of Congress,
Muslims decided to have a
separate homeland where they
can live their life freely.

CONCLUSION:

The election of 1937 was
significant in the history. The
~~so~~ harsh attitude of Congress
toward Muslims resulted in the
suffering of Muslims. These
atrocities and grievances of
Muslims led them to the idea
of separate Muslim homeland in
India.