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Assignment

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Q#01

Critically analyze the elections of 1937 and the sufferings and grievances of the Muslims under the Congress rule in the provinces (1937-1939). How much did it help in popularizing the idea of a separate Muslim state in India?

Introduction:

The emergence of Pakistan in 1947 is the result of number of painful events and hardships faced by Muslims of subcontinent. Congress Rule (1937-39) had contributed as a key factor in accelerating the efforts of Muslims for a separate homeland to secure their identity. Congress rule in 8 provinces of subcontinent served as a nail in coffin by prevailing Tyranny and abuse of power by introducing schemes like Wardha and Vidya Mandir. Alongside, marginalization of Muslims and All India Muslim League in Governance.

and bureaucracy, religious insensitivities like ban on cow slaughter and Urdu language suppression directly threatened the future of Muslims in Subcontinent. The realization of Congress rule as dress rehearsal for future played critical role in awakening of Muslims and remobilization of Muslim League in order to overcome its flaws. So, Congress Rule (1937-39) served as a blessing in disguise to popularize the idea of a separate Muslim state in India.

2 → Content of Congress Rule (1937)

As per act of Indian Government, 1935, the popular and provincial elections were held across Subcontinent in 1936 and 1937. The results were shocking for both parties: Muslim League and Congress. Congress's claim of sole representative of all nations was stumbled because it did not achieve satisfying results in Muslim majority Provinces such as Punjab and Bengal.

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However, it maintained an upper edge in 5 provinces including Madras, UP, Bihar, CP and Orissa. In two other provinces, it managed to build government with cooperation. Muslim League, on the other hand, lost the elections badly and managed only 106 seats in provincial elections out of 482 seats reserved for Muslims. It indicated the weakness of Muslim League at that particular time. The results of elections are given in tabular form as follows:

	Total	AIML	INC	Other
Provincial Seats	1585	106	711	769
Punjab	175	1	18	156
Bengal	250	37	54	159
Sindh	60	8	0	52

3 → Sufferings And Grievances of Muslims Under Congress Rule!

3.1

Marginalization in Governance and Bureaucracy:

The sufferings of Muslims began when Congress rejected the coalition offers in Governance by Muslim League in UP.

Congress kept the condition for combine governance that "In United Provinces, Muslim League cease to function as separate group and join Congress."

Ref: The Final Transfer of Power in India, 1937-1947, Sidhartha Samantha.

Muslim League refused to accept the condition which ultimately leads to their marginalization in Governance and Bureaucracy.

The lack of power led to the exploitation of Muslims.

3.2. Cultural Coercion: Promotion of Bande Matram and Wardha Scheme

The cultural exploitation of Muslims in Subcontinent rose by promotion of anti-Islam steps of Congress governments. Band-e-Matram, a song from Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's book Ananda, was

set as national anthem of country. Muslim children were pressurized to sing it in schools. Wardha Scheme, on the other hand, was an educational policy to sway Muslim children from their ideology. It promoted social development by weakening religious teachings to children which was unacceptable for Muslims and caused sufferings for them. "We have left out teachings of Islam from the Wardha Scheme"

Mahatma Gandhi

303 Language Suppression: The Urdu-Hindi Controversy

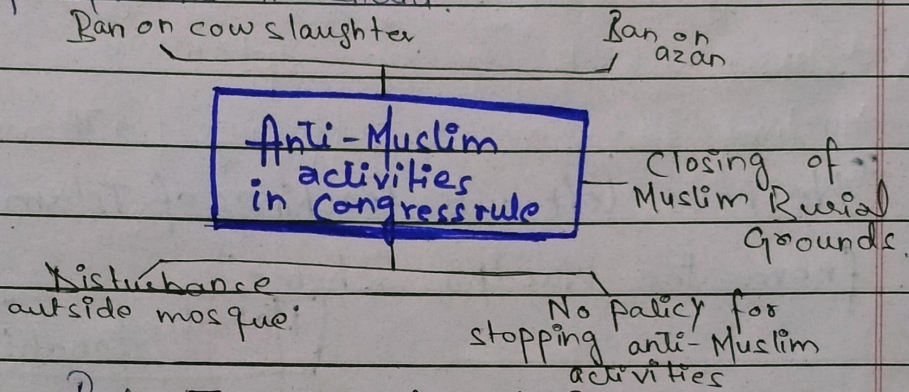
The attempts to marginalize Urdu and make Hindi official language of India were accelerated in Congress rule. It further alienated the Muslims in Indian society, stimulating the growth of separate Muslim identity.

"In July 1937, Hindi was declared as official language of India and Deva Nagri became official script"

Ref: Congress Ministries (1937-1939)

3.4 Ignorance of religious insensitivities:

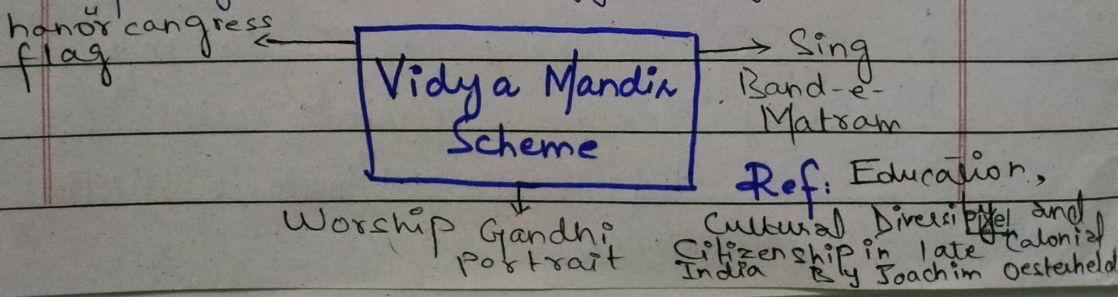
Islam and Hinduism are antithesis of each other with contrasting sensitivities such as cow slaughter. Congress rule (1937-39) instead of handling it sensitively, devised ignorant policies that fueled the fears of Muslims in India.



Ref: Final Transfer of Power in India, 1937-1947, Sidhanta Samanta

3.5 Education Exclusion and Curriculum Bias.

From Wardha to Vidya Mandir Scheme, Congress rule accelerated curriculum bias towards Hinduism. It insecured the future of Muslim generations by imposing Hindu ideology through education.



3.6 Economic Disadvantages and unequal opportunities

The main source of income for Muslims with royal legacy was civil service.

Congress rule marginalized the presence of Muslims in Governance. The doors of trade and agriculture were also closed on them, which risked economic wiping out of Muslim identity in India.

Execution of Benefit Schemes was in the hands of Hindu officials who saw it that the Muslims did not get their due share in the benefits. Most departments and govt. services were manned by Hindus. Muslims were gradually squeezed out of these positions."

Ref: Congress - ~~and~~ Muslim League Tussle 1937-40; A critical analysis" by Abdul Shakoor

4 Popularization of Idea of Separate Muslim state under Congress rule

4.01 Congress Rule as 'dress rehearsal' of Hindu Majoritarianism:

The uprightness of Hinduism and sufferings of Muslims during congress rule served as a 'dress rehearsal' for future under Congress authority. It raised the sense of separate Muslim identity and need of separate homeland.

"Muslims can expect neither justice nor fair play under Congress Government"

[Quaid-e-Azam.]

4.02 Failure of Composite Nationalism:

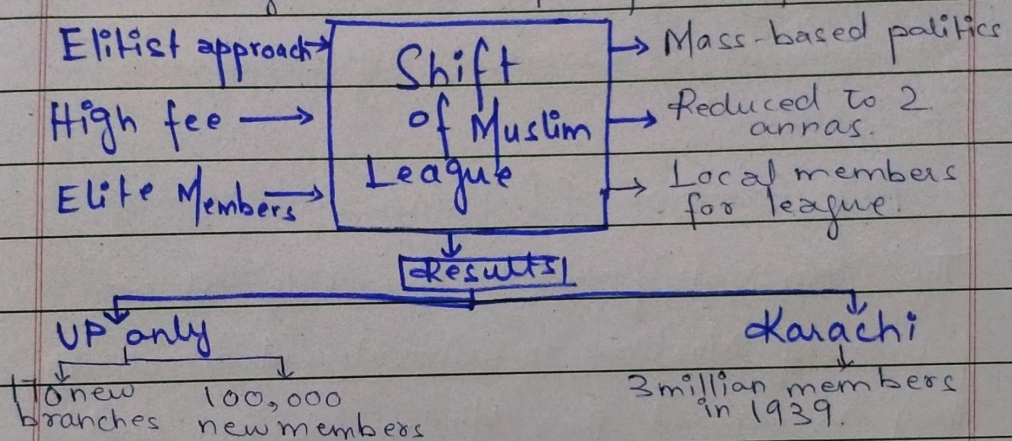
The claim of All India national Congress of being a 'single representative of all nations' shattered in the short duration of Congress rule. The concept of composite nationalism failed for Muslims and the idea for separate Muslim state consolidated.

The years of Congress rule have given us a very bitter lesson and created fear of the hindu domination. The Muslims are nation by every definition of word nation. It is absolutely wrong to consider the Muslims as minority"

[Quaid-e-Azam]

4.3 ^{League} Muslim's Shift from Elitist to Mass-based Politics:

The failure in 1937 elections and Suffering of Muslims by Congress rule realized the weaknesses of Muslim League. It served as blessing in disguise for Muslim League to overcome its failures, revive Muslim identity, and realize the need of separate Muslim state.



Ref: A brief History of Pakistan by James W. Wynnandt

4.4 Narrative Shift in Muslim Press:

Congress lost its legitimacy and popularity among Muslim masses which was evident in the narrative shift of Muslim press. It symbolized the popularity of idea of separate Muslim state. Through media, Quaid-e-Azam addressed Muslim mass contact program in these words:

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"It was cultivated to divide, weaken and break the Muslims and an effort to detach them from their leaders."

4.5 Final Rise of Muslim Identity Consciousness:

"Congress rule raised the question that can Muslims survive if western styled democracy imposed on them and the government is based on injustice and prejudice"

Ref: Creation of Pakistan : Shakila Noor
Sindhu

This question posed the direct threat on future of Muslims in subcontinent. Resultantly, they recognized their Muslim identity and idea of separate Muslim homeland spread across the subcontinent.

5- Final Outcome of Congress rule: Lahore Resolution (1940) and Creation of Pakistan (1947):

The sufferings of Muslims and popularization of idea of Muslim state under congress rule laid its final outcome in 1940 by Lahore resolution at 23rd March.

It ultimately paved the way for

creation of separate Muslim state on 14 August, 1947.

Conclusion:

Congress rule (1937-39) served as last nail in coffin in realization of separate Muslim land. Political, cultural, religious, linguistic, economic and educational grievances of Muslims under congress rule paved the way for rise of Muslim identity by facilitating shift in Muslim League's policy, Muslim press. It also served the failure of composite nationalism which resulted in creation of Pakistan in less than a decade. Conclusively, the reality of Pakistan in words of Quaid-e-Azam is as follows:

"There is no power on Earth that can undo Pakistan"