

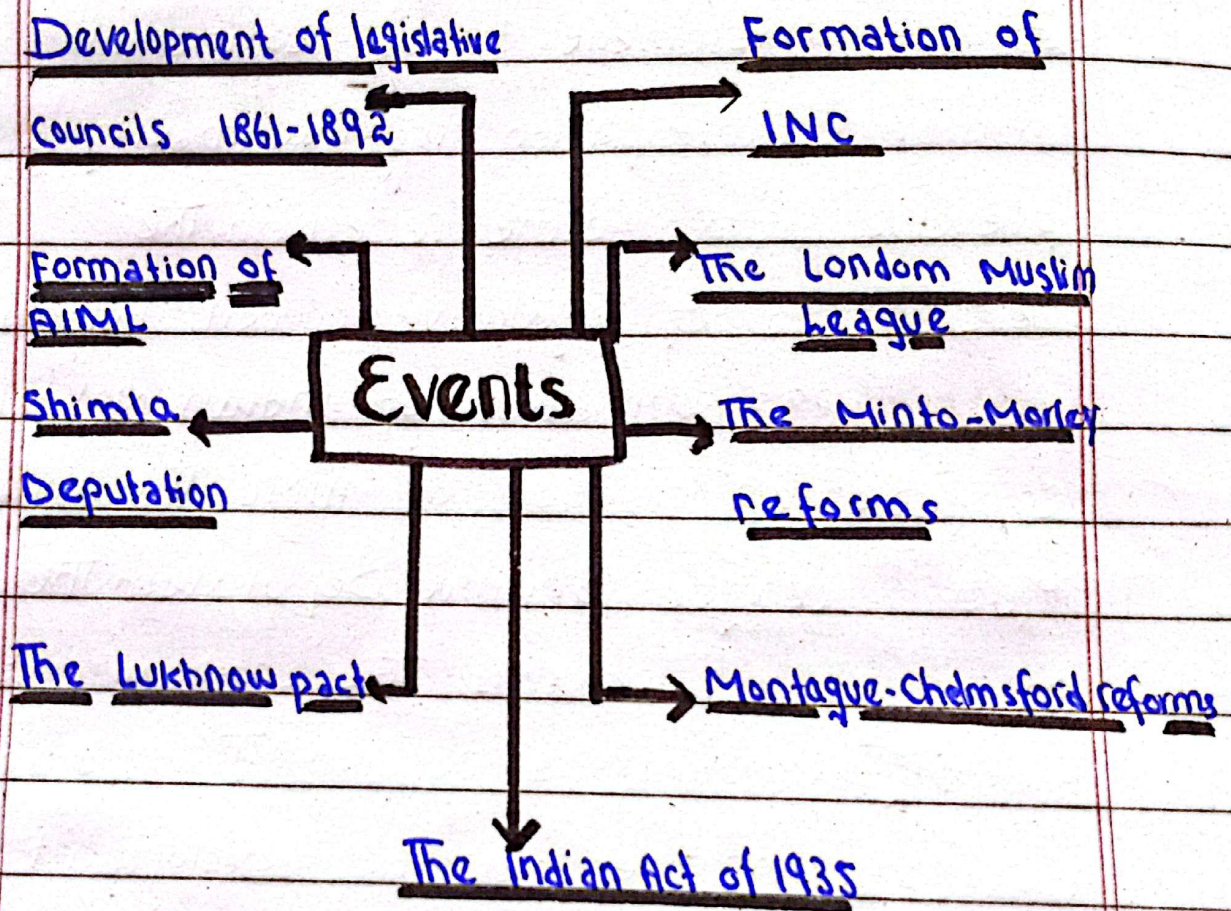
Q) Discuss the idea of evolution and development of separate electorate system. Can it be...

Introduction:

After the rebellion of 1857, British government decided to increase Indian participation in law making to prevent from future rebellion. The development of legislative council between 1861 to 1892, formation of Indian National Conference, formation of AIML, The London Muslim League, Shimla Deputation, The Minto-Morley reforms, The Lakhnow pact, Montague-Chelmsford reform, The Indian Act of 1935 ensures the development of separate electorate system. It can be termed as harbinger of idea of separate homeland as it gives Muslims a sense of political awareness and platform to raise voice for their rights.

The evolution and development of separate electorate:

Series of events include the evolution and development of separate electorate system:



i) Development of legislative Councils 1861-1892:

To prevent from the future rebellion like the rebellion of 1857,

British government decided to give Indians representation in law making. The Indian Council Act of 1861 added the Indians to the executive council of Governor-General but they could not ask any question.

"The Indian Council Act of 1892 passed to increase Indian numbers in Governor-General's executive council and now they can ask supplementary question." Trek To Pakistan by Ahmad Saeed

ii) Formation of INC:

The ILBERT Act controversy made Indians realized that they needed a unified platform to raise their voices for their rights. Indian Nation Congress was made in 1885 but it was purely hindu-dominated party.

"Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and other

Muslim leaders refused to join INC and consider it harmful to the muslims interest. "Pakistan and World

affairs by SHAMSHAD Ahmad

In 63 years of INC, only seven Muslims became president of INC.

iii) Formation of All India Muslim League:

Formation of All India Muslim League (AIML) was a significant step towards the establishment of separate electorate system. Soon after the hindu domination over congress, Muslims leaders realized that they need to form their own separate political party to tell the British government about the grievances of Muslims.

"In the opinion of Dr. K.K. Aziz, one of the factor responsible for creation of AIML was muslims desire to have their own

exclusive electorate for all representative institutions."

iv) The London Muslim League:

One of the Branch of AIML was established in London to win the support of people of England. It was headed by Ameer Ali. He made constant efforts to prove that Muslims are different from the Hindus and separate electorate is the only means to protect them from Hindus domination.

"The London Muslim League remains active untill the separate electorate was given under Minto-Morley reforms."

Trek to Pakistan by Ahmad Saeed.

v) Shimla Deputation (1906):

Lord Minto declared constitutional reforms in India in his budget discussion in the British parliament. The Muslims

became worried about it. Sahibzada Afiab Khan wrote a letter to a pioneer and addressed that neither election nor nomination suited the India-Reserved seats should be allotted to Muslims. A delegation headed by Aga Khan met the viceroy and demanded separate electorate for Muslims.

"The success of Shimla Deputation besides the criticism from Hindus laid the foundation for separate electorate for Muslims." "Pakistan & World Affairs" Shamshad Ahmad.

vi) The Minto-Morley reforms 1909:

Lord Minto was of the view that participation of educated Indians in the government is the only means for the continuation of British rule. So, he decided to increase the numbers of Indian (coun) in Executive Council of Governor General.

"The right to separate electorate was given under Minto-Morley reforms which was a significant steps towards the future reforms." *Trek to Pakistan* Ahmad Saeed.

vii) The Lucknow Pact 1916:

The Lucknow pact was a rare moment when Hindu-Muslim unity was at peak.

"The Hindus for the first time and last time accepted the right of separate electorate for Muslims."

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by Hamid Khan.

The INC and AIML made an agreement where one third Muslims participation in imperial legislative council was agreed. However, this unity did not last long due to the bigotry nature of Hindus.

viii) Montague-Chelmsford reforms 1919:

After the WW1, Indians criticized the British that if they can fight for democracy why they are not allowing democracy to rule in India. So, the Montague-Chelmsford reforms were introduced.

"The right of separate electorate was kept intact. Bicameral legislature and Dyarchy at provinces was introduced in these reforms." "Trek to Pakistan" Ahmad Saeed

ix) The Indian Act of 1935:

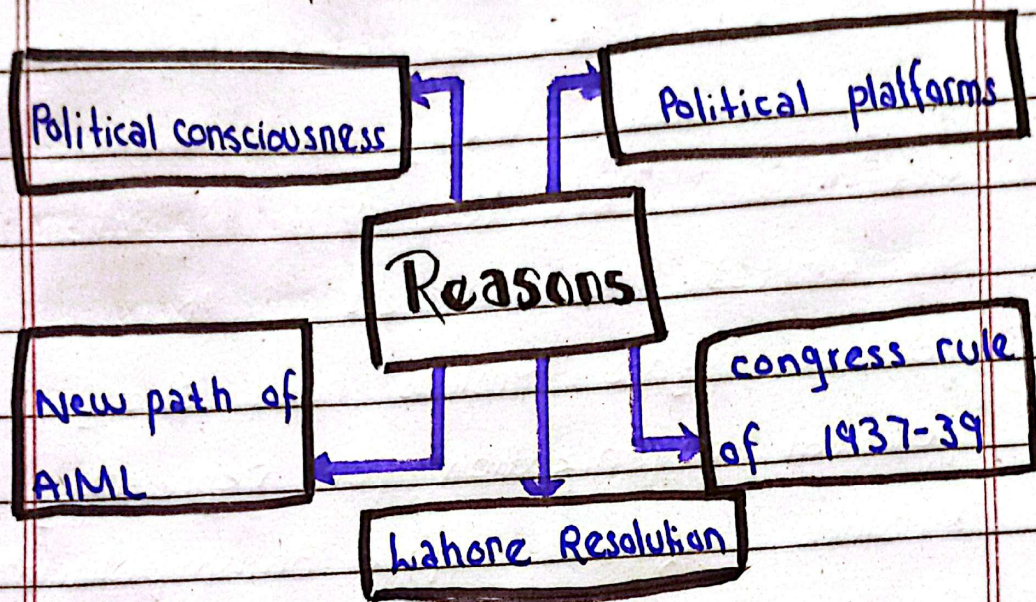
The Indian Act of 1935 increased the Indian participation in legislature, executive and judiciary but the actual control was under British government.

"The Indian Act of 1935 increased the reserved seats to other minorities like Sikh, Christians and others."

Constitutional & Political History by Hamid Khan.

Harbinger of idea of separate homeland for muslims:

Separate electorate system can be termed as harbinger of idea of separate homeland for Muslims:



i) Political Consciousness among Muslims:

The right to separate electorate raises consciousness about their political rights. They became aware about the true intentions of British and Hindus. So, in order to prevent them from irreversable

Subjugation of Hindus majority after the British rule, they demanded separate homeland for Muslims.

"The inevitable consequence of separate electorate was the partition of India and formation of Pakistan." Aga Khan

ii) Political platforms for Muslims:

After the awareness of their political rights, Muslims need strong political organization for representing Muslims agenda before British parliament.

All India Muslim League (AIML) was establish to protect Muslims rights and for showing British loyalism.

AIML plays a key role in the achievement of separate electorate and later on separate homeland for Muslims. "Pakistan & World affairs"

Shamshad Ahmad.

iii) New Path of AIML:

As the AIML was established to show British loyalism and protection of Muslims rights. But the wretched conditions of Muslims, Annulment of partition of Bengal, Kanpur tragedy and Jallianwala Bagh incident made Muslims realized that it is futile to rely on British government for their rights.

"Viqar-ul-Mulk advised Muslims not to rely on British govt. and believe in Allah and their own strength."

"Trek to Pakistan" Ahmad Raza Khan

iv) Congress rule of 1937-39:

After winning election of 1937, the Congress behaviour towards Muslims were not satisfactory.

"The Congress offered humiliating terms to AIML to join Congress for making coalition in provinces." Constitutional

and political History by Hamid Khan

This made muslims leaders realized that they can not survive as a one nation.

v) Lahore Resolution 1940:

In the annual session of AIML on 23 March, 1940, Quaid-e-Azam gave his two-nation theory that Hindus and Muslims are two different nations by any definition.

"The Lahore resolution became famous as Pakistan resolution and resulted into formation of Pakistan on 14th August 1947. "Trek to Pakistan" Ahmad Saeed

Q Conclusion:

Hence, from the above discussion it is clear that separate electorat system became the harbinger of idea of separate homeland for the Muslims.