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Subject : Pakistan Affairs.

⇒ Q.No. 1:

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 separation muslim state in India?

⇒ (1) Introduction:-

The ¹⁹³⁵ Government of India act was practically implemented in 1937. The Provincial election were held in the winter of 1936-37. There were two two major political parties in the sub-continent at that time, the congress, and the muslim league. Both parties did their best to Persuade the masses before these elections and put before them their manifesto. The political manifestos of both parties were almost identical, although there were two major differences. Congress stood for joint electorate and the

League for separate electorates. Congress wanted Hindi as official language with Deva Nagri script of writing while the League wanted Urdu with Persian script. The election of 1937 spelled a clear victory for the Congress. It was able to form ministries in eight out of eleven provinces. The performance of Muslim League was far from satisfactory in the elections of 1937 as it was not able to form a majority in any of the provinces. The Muslim League could only obtain same seats in Muslim minority provinces. The greatest success of Muslim League was in United Provinces where it won 29 seats or 80% of the seats it contested.

⇒ (2) Reasons of Muslim League's Defeat

1. Factionalism: For many years, the Muslim League was divided into factions.
2. Poor organization particularly at grass root level.

3. Presence of other organized muslim parties like ~~Unionist~~ Unionist Party in Punjab, Krishak Proja in Bengal, Kudi Muktamuktigaar in NWFP, etc.

⇒ (3) Congress Rule:-

The advent of Congress to power opened a new chapter in the modern Indian history in more ways than one. For the first time the responsible governments were installed in the provinces. For the first time the Congress tasted the heady wine of power. And for the first time the Muslims realized about their fate in a Congress dominated government. In short Muslims were completely alienated from Congress. According to I.H. Qureshi,

"The Congress rule between 1937 and 1939 was nothing short of a nightmare for the Muslims of India."

⇒ (4) Refusal to form Coalitions:-

The Congress was able to form ministries in eight Provinces. Muslim League leaders were hoping to form a coalition government with Congress in Muslim minority Provinces particularly in United Province. When Muslim League desired a Coalition government, the response of Congress was shocking. The Congress said it would only agree to a Coalition if its terms were accepted. The humiliating terms were:-

(i)

Function of legislative assembly:-

The Muslim League group in the legislative assembly would not function as a separate group.

(ii)

Members of Muslim League:-

The members of Muslim League became part of Congress and agreed to the party ~~discipline~~ discipline on all issues.

(iii)

Parliamentary board of Muslim League:-

The parliamentary board of Muslim League was to be dissolved as well.

(v) Response of muslim league in

The muslim league refused to accept the congress agreement. This attitude of congress clearly represented its Hindu character and a sheer disregard for muslim emotions and feelings.

"The refusal of congress to form coalitions with muslim league was a short-sighted policy which went a long way is not only alienating muslim india but also convincing the british government of the irreconcilability of the hindu with th muslim". C.H. Qureshi

⇒ (5) The muslim league mass contact campaign:-

Along with its refusal to share power with the muslim league, the congress pursued an anti-muslim league policy in an other direction. The congress decided to weaken the ~~the~~ influence of muslim league by appealing to muslims to forsake the league and come over to congress. Thus, the congress launched the ambitious and short-lived campaign

of directly contacting the muslims in march 1937. Jawaharlal Nehru, while issuing a statement termed the communal issues, as 'petty and unreal' and said that the real problem was economic not communal. The fiercest reply to the Congress Campaign came from Quaid-Azam.

"The congress attempt under the guise of establishing mass contact with the muslims calculating to divide and break the muslims and to detach them from their accredited leaders all such moves will not succeed notwithstanding the blandishments, catch words and slogans."

⇒ (b) Dictatorship of Congress:-

(i) The Congress ministries established after the elections of 1937 were accountable; not to the legislature which had elected them or to the electorate which had given them the mandate, but to the high command of the Party.

(ii)

Strict control was exercised and

even in minor matters ministers were obligated to take orders from the congress committee.

(iii)

The committee is comprised of Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Vallab Bhai, and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad. These members then proceeded to put in force an absolutist role by Mr. Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru.

(iv). The rigid application of party discipline was aimed at maintaining at all costs the unity of hindu nationalist movement.

(v).

Quaid-e-Azam turned the congress rule as fascist and authoritative nature.

(7) ⇒ Wardha Scheme of education:-

The congress instituted an educational scheme called the Wardha scheme.

This scheme was prepared by a committee headed by a congressite muslim, Dr. Zakir Hussain, but was inspired, guided, and supervised by Mr. Gandhi. Even though it was

said to be concerned with education, the scheme was actually intended to convert non-Hindus to hinduism. It was introduced in all educational institutes. The main idea of this scheme was to integrate hinduism with islam but underneath, it was implemented to obliterate all non-hindu cultures and especially the muslim culture. The curriculum adopted under this scheme was devoted to the Praises of hindu religion, philosophy and heroes and willfully ignored muslim culture, history and heroes and spoke of them with scant courtesy.

⇒ (8) Vidya Mandir Scheme:-

Vidya mandir scheme was based on Gandhi's philosophy of hindu nationalism and non-violence. The aim was to introduce hindu culture and religion in subtle way so that muslim culture would be gradually destroyed.

"What the congress as a political organization could not do openly, the wardha scheme would have achieved by slow and sure methods" (Liqat Ali Khan)

⇒ (a). Atrocities on muslims:-

The Congress rule between 1937 and 1939 was an eye opener for the muslims of the subcontinent. The congress ministries tried every possible tactic to suppress and repress the muslims. Some of such steps were:

(i)

Slaughter of cows:- The congress issued orders against the slaughter of cows. Severe punishments were awarded to those who did not comply with the order and killed "mother cow". This was a glaring attempt to enforce hindu dictates on the personal lives of the minorities particularly muslims.

(ii).

Congress tri colour:- The congress tri colour was hoisted alongside the British Union Jack at government buildings in the provinces that the congress controlled.

(iii)

Treatment with muslim students:-

The muslim students in the school were asked to make bow in front of the Gandhi's picture and sing hymns in his praise.

(iv) Azan were forbidden:-

Muslim religious rites such as azaan were forbidden. At the time of prayers, noisy processions were carried out outside the mosques. Pigs were pushed into Muslim houses and mosques.

(v)

Construction of new mosque:-

Religious intolerance was the order of the day. Muslims were not allowed to construct new mosques. The Shahid Ganj Mosque in Lahore was demolished under the protection of government forces.

(vi)

Hindu-Muslim Riots:-

All these activities of Hindus resulted in Hindu-Muslim riots in which the Muslims were at receiving end.

⇒ (10) The Language Issue:-

After taking charge in July 1937, Congress declared Hindi as the national language and Deva Nagari as official script.

This high handed and unilateral decision by Congress was seen by the Muslims as another attempt to destroy their culture.

→ (11) Singing of Bande Mataram:-

In the congress governed provinces, muslim children were forced to sing Bande Mataram. This song was anti-islamic as well as idolatrous and hence distasteful to the muslims. It depicted the muslims as unclean and aggressive foreigners. The proceedings of legislative assemblies also started with the singing of Bande Mataram which was accepted by congress as a national song.

→ (12) Economic Strangulation of muslims:-

The congress ministries did their best to weaken the economy of muslims they closed the doors of government offices for them, which was one of the main sources of income for the muslims in the region. They also harmed muslim trade and agriculture.

→ (13) Nehru's Two Parties forces Dictum:-

The arrogance of congress leadership could be seen by the claim of

Nehru that there were only two parties in India, the British and the Congress and all others must line up. He refused to acknowledge Muslim League as a party and stakeholder in the political dispensation of India.

"I refuse to line up with the Congress. There is a third party in this country and that is the Muslims. We are not going to be dictated to by anyone."

(Quaid-e-Azam)

⇒ (14)

Resignation of Congress ministries Day of Deliverance:-

The Second World War started in September 1939. With the commencement of hostilities in Europe, the viceroy proclaimed a state of war against Germany. The Congress high command refused to help the war effort and decided to quit office. The war, they said, had been declared without consulting them. Thus, the Congress rule came to an end after two

years and the muslims of the subcontinent took a sigh of relief. Quaid-e-Azam called upon his people to observe a "Deliverance Day" on 22nd december 1939 to mark the end of tyranny and oppression.

⇒ (15)

~~Conclusion~~

Critical Analysis:-

It is undeniable that the elections of 1937 became an eye-opener for the muslims of united india. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was fully aware of congresses evil intentions and struggled hard to make muslims realise that they need a separate homeland.

⇒ (16) Conclusion:-

The struggle for freedom in the subcontinent had not confined to a specific occasion, but it was an ultimate outcome of a series of events. With the end of the congress rule in 1939, the muslims celebrated the day of deliverance on december 12, 1940.