

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS

QUESTION No:4

Congress ministries of 1937 paved ways for separate state. Critically analyze.

The congress ministers of 1937 played a significant role in shaping the political landscape of the Indian subcontinent, ultimately contributing to the demand for a separate state for Muslims, which culminated in the creation of Pakistan in 1947. These ministries were formed under the Government of India Act 1935, it was the first time that the Indian National Congress held power in several provinces across British India.

Background of Congress Ministries 1937:

In the 1937 provincial elections, the Indian National Congress won six out of eleven provinces and formed government in these regions. The All India Muslim League, representing Muslim interests, performed poorly in these elections.

Policies And Actions of the Congress Ministries:

- 1- Promotion of Hindi and Hindu Cultural Symbols:
One of the key grievances was the

promotion of Hindi and use of symbols and rituals associated with Hindu culture in the administration. This was seen as an attempt to impose Hindu culture dominance.

2- Muslim Representation and Employment:

Congress ministers were accused of neglecting Muslim representation in government jobs and administration. Muslims felt marginalized in the government, leading to a perception that Congress was a party that primarily represented Hindu interests.

3- Warda Scheme of Education:

The introduction of Warda Scheme, which emphasized the teaching of Hindi and the use of the spinning wheel (charkha) in education, which was seen as another attempt to promote Hindu values in schools. Muslims viewed this an effort to assimilate them into Hindu culture.

4. Congress's Refusal to share Power:

The Congress's refusal to include the Muslim League in provincial government

led to increase communal tensions. The Muslim League felt excluded from the decision-making process, which fueled the perception that Muslims could not expect fair treatment in future.

Analysis of the Congress Ministries 1937

According to James Wijnbrandt's "A Brief History of Pakistan" writing, the 1937 elections under the Government of India Act of 1935 were a turning point in Indian politics. The Indian National Congress, which emerged victorious in most provinces, formed government that totally ignored Muslim League and other Muslim representatives.

Conclusion:

The congress ministries of 1937 played a critical role in shaping the demand for a separate state by alienating the Muslim community through policies perceived as promoting Hindu dominance. The actions reinforced the Muslim League's argument that Muslims needed a separate state to protect their religion, culture and political rights. The experience under congress rule, paved way for eventual partition of India.