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Ans.

## CONGRESS MINISTRIES CLEARED PATH FOR A SEPARATE MUSLIM STATE

The Congress ministries of 1937, formed after the elections under Government of India Act 1937, proved to be a crucial development in the politics of United India. The type of rule Congress did after winning the 1937 election compelled Muslims to demand a separate homeland. The atrocities Congress did to the Muslims of sub-continent strengthened the Two-Nation Theory, with Muslims starting struggle for a new Muslim state.

## FORMATION OF CONGRESS MINISTRIES

Congress formed govt after winning the 1937 elections after by a clean sweep in

many provinces.

## → POWER DYNAMICS

After winning the elections in majority provinces, Congress formed its government in India. The Muslim League did poorly in the elections and failed to secure majority in the provinces. Congress was offered to form a coalition government in areas where it did not gain major victory - Congress refused the offer. They continued on making Muslims feel alienated.

## → PERCEPTION OF CONGRESS RULE

Congress was a Hindu majority party. Despite its claims of being secular, it put forward Hindu centric policies. This led to the sidelining of Muslims' interests. Congress rule favoured Hindus over Muslims which made Muslims realize that living under a Congress Rule would wipe out their identity, hence they demanded a separate state.

## POLICIES AND ACTIONS OF THE CONGRESS MINISTRIES

### → EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL POLICIES

The congress ministries introduced several reforms which were seen as attempts to

promoting Hindu culture and suppressing Muslim identity and culture. For instance the making of Hindi as a national language and using the Devanagiri script for writing Hindi. In addition to this, giving the status of national song to Bande Mataram and making Muslim students sing this school further alienated Muslims. The song had idolatrous meaning and was against the principles of Islam. This aggravated Muslims and their demand for a separate Muslim state further strengthened.

### → ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MEASURES

Some economic measures taken by Congress such as the introduction of prohibitions and reforms in agriculture were seen detrimental to Muslim landlords and businessmen. These policies reinforced the idea that the Congress was not representing the interests of all communities equally.

### THE MUSLIM LEAGUE'S RESPONSE AND THE DEMAND FOR PAKISTAN

#### → REVIVAL OF THE MUSLIM LEAGUE

The exclusion of Muslim League from power and the perceived marginalization of Muslims by the Congress, strengthened

the League under the leadership of M.A. Jinnah Muslim leaders joined hands in working for the betterment of the Muslim majority party and in making their voice heard for the formation of Pakistan - a separate Muslim state.

### → TWO-NATION THEORY

The Hindu rule after Congress winning the elections of 1937 strengthened the belief among many Muslims that their interests could not be safeguarded in a Hindu-majority India. This belief laid the strengthening of Sir Sayed Ahmad Khan's Two-Nation Theory. The theory argues that Hindus and Muslims are two separate nations, each with their distinct customs and religion, hence they need separate homelands.

### IMPACT ON HINDU-MUSLIM RELATIONS

#### → WORSENING OF RELATIONS

The Congress rule where they were focused on sidelining Muslims and Muslim culture from the mainstream, deteriorated the decades old relationship of Hindus and Muslims. Communal riots took place and worsened the day-to-day living conditions. This led to the growth of divide between the two communities.

## SHIFT IN MUSLIM POLITICS

A major shift was seen in Muslim Politics; where Muslims focused on securing rights within a united India was now changed into a demand for a separate Muslim state. This shift was crucial in securing a separate state.

## CONCLUSION

The Congress ministries in 1937, while intended to be a step towards self-rule and greater autonomy, ended up deepening the communal divide in India. The politics of and rule of Congress, coupled with failure to address Muslim concerns, led to the strengthening of Muslim League's demand for a separate state.

Ans.

## PROGRESSION OF MUSLIM NATIONALISM IN THE SUBCONTINENT

The evolution and growth of Muslim Nationalism in the subcontinent is a complex and multi-faceted process, deeply rooted in the socio-political and cultural dynamics of the region. The leadership of the time played a significant role in nurturing the Muslim spirit and nationalism; ultimately resulting in the creation of a separate and independent Muslim state in 1947.

### EARLY FOUNDATIONS OF MUSLIM IDENTITY

Muslim Nationalism can be traced back to medieval times when the rulers of this region were Muslims. Muslim rules particularly, the Mughals established a strong Muslim nation. The decline of Mughal power in 1850's saw rise in regional powers and eventually paving way for British colonialism.

The battle of 1857 (Indian Revolt) gave rise to British power and a significant decline was seen in Muslim identity. The British considered Muslims behind the revolt of 1857 and hence marginalized them since they gained access of Subcontinent. During this time Muslims were politically inactive, however, they carried their religious and cultural activities.

## THE ROLE OF SIR SAYED AHMAD KHAN

Sir Sayed Ahmad Khan was a key figure in bringing back the Muslim identity in the Subcontinent. After the revolt of 1857, he realized that in order to awaken the Muslim identity, the Muslims of India must acquire themselves with Western education. In this way Muslims would make their socio-economic situations better. Sir Sayed Ahmad Khan in this process, founded the Muhammadan Anglo Oriental College which later became Aligarh Muslim University. This provided the modern scientific education to the Muslims of India awakening them about the world around them.

### → POLITICAL AWAKENING

Sir Sayed also promoted the idea that Muslims were a separate and distinct community with their own culture, religion and customs. He laid the groundwork for Muslims political consciousness by encouraging Muslims to stay away from the Indian National Congress and focus on their own socio-political interests.

### FORMATION OF THE MUSLIM LEAGUE

The formation of a political party that would represent Muslims of India was

crucial, hence in 1906 All India Muslim League was formed in Dhaka. This party politically represented the Muslims in British India and was stood beside Indian National Congress that represented Hindus. The formation of AIML served a turning point in strengthening Muslim nationalism in India. Initially, Muslim League sought protection of Muslim rights within a United India but gradually moved towards the idea of a separate Muslim state.

## ROLE OF MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

Muhammad Ali Jinnah, originally a member of the Indian National Congress, emerged as a strong Muslim leader who strengthened Muslim nationalism in British India. M.A. Jinnah focused on the idea that Muslims are not a minority but a separate nation hence a separate and sovereign state must be provided to the Muslims of India.

### → THE LAHORE RESOLUTION (1940)

Under the leadership of Jinnah, Muslim League passed the Lahore Resolution on 23rd March 1940. This resolution demanded a separate Muslim state in the north-western and eastern part of the subcontinent. This move further strengthened the Muslim Nationalisation

## CREATION OF PAKISTAN (1947)

The culmination of Muslim Nationalism was the partition of India in 1947 and the creation of a separate Muslim state. The partition was a result of the constant efforts of Muslim leaders in reviving the Muslim identity and Muslim Nationalism. The realization that the co-existence of both Muslims and Hindus in a ~~separate~~ united India was infeasible, hence the British and the Congress agreed to the demands of Muslim League.

Jinnah's role was instrumental in the creation of a separate Muslim state. His vision, political acumen, and unwavering commitment to the cause of a separate Muslim state solidified his place as the father of the nation in Pakistan.

## CONCLUSION

The growth of Muslim nationalism in the sub-continent was a gradual process influenced by the socio-political context and the response of Muslim leaders to the challenges faced by their community. Leaders like Sir Sayed and M.A. Jinnah were crucial in shaping the trajectory of this movement. Their contributions provided the strategic direction that ultimately led to the creation of Pakistan.