

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS

MOCK-4

Q#4: Congress Ministries of 1937 paved ways for separate state. Critically Analyze.

Answer: The congress ministries formed in 1937 following the elections under the Government of India Act 1937, marked a significant turning point in history of British India Political landscape. The tenure of these ministries proved to be a period of inadvertently fueled communal tensions between Hindus and Muslims due to its unjust and harsh policies towards Muslims. This helped Muslims realize of their separate identity that was manifested during Pakistan movement. Thus, the Congress ministries of 1937, ~~despite their reformist agenda~~ played an unintended yet critical role in laying the groundwork for the eventual partition of India in 1947.

① The Policies and Actions of Congress Ministries and the deepening communal tensions between Muslim and Hindus:

The Congress proved to be only a Hindu Party. ~~and~~ ~~consequently~~ Twenty-seven months of the Congress rule were like a nightmare for the Muslims of South Asia. They took a number of actions in an attempt to eradicate Muslim identity - ~~by~~ and weaken their position in India's political playground.

(a) Attempts to obliterate the Cultural traditions of Muslims -

After taking charge in 1937, Congress ministries left no stone unturned in their attempts to annihilate Muslim identity by obliterating their cultural traditions. They prohibited slaughtering of cows ^{and} construction of new mosques. They also declared Hindi as the national language and Deva Nagri as official

script as they considered Urdu as Muslim's language and ~~was~~ associated it with Muslim identity.

(b) - ~~as~~ Policies to Hinder Muslim's social, economic and political growth:

In order to hinder Muslims' social growth they introduced such reforms to educational system that will force Muslims to stop sending their kids to schools. It was made compulsory to worship the picture of Gandhi at school, Bandematram was made the national anthem and a ~~new~~ "warda Taleemi Scheme" was introduced. Similarly policies favoring hindu dominated areas for businesses were introduced, alienating Muslims economically. To further weaken Muslims' position in political playground they appointed their loyalists in key positions form Hindu dominance in administration.

(c) Impact of these policies as intensifying communal tensions between Muslims & Hindus:

These policies fueled Hindus and Muslims' grievances towards each other. The intensifying communal relationships finally resulted in riots that ~~then~~ broke out in Panipat, Madras and Amritsar during 1937 and in Benares, Cawnpore and Sukkur in 1939.

② Shift in views of United India Muslim supporters to Two-nation theory:

(a) Growing sense of Muslim identity and insecurity:

Initially, many Muslims supported United India as they believed their interests could be safeguarded in United India and they could coexist with Hindus as they did during Mughal rule. However, the policies made by Congress ministries prompted Muslims to question their this view. They began to fear that Muslim rights and identity would be overshadowed in a Hindu-majority nation. This fear prompted a shift towards the Two-Nation Theory, that believed that Muslims and Hindus were two

separate nations that could not live together.

(b) Disillusionment with the Secular ideal:

Muslims who once believed in the promise of a secular India began to feel increasingly disillusioned as Congress ministries failed to uphold secular principles.

The growing tensions eroded their faith in possibility for a secular framework in United India that will ensure equality for all. As Muslims saw secularism being compromised by the dominance of Hindu nationalist ideals, ~~many~~ their disillusionment with the secular ideals ended. This realization shifted their support towards the Two-Nation theory, ~~as~~ as it seemed more practical solution.

(c) Realization of Political Power Dynamics:

Supporters of a united India initially believed that Hindus and Muslims could share power in a balanced and collaborative political system. However, the

political landscape after 1937 demonstrated a clear dominance of Congress, which was predominantly Hindu. This realization of unequal power dynamics led many to reconsider their stance to two-state solution as they saw it as the only way for Muslims to have political autonomy and ensure their representation in governance.

③ Beginning of a New Era in Pakistan Movement:

1937 proved to be the beginning of a new era in Pakistan movement followed by a decade that finally ended in 1947 with the creation of Pakistan, a separate homeland.

④ (a) Jinnah's advocacy: The voice for Muslim Rights-

Muhammad Ali Jinnah, initially a proponent of cooperation with Congress, began towards distinct political rights for Muslims. His speeches and writings increasingly emphasized

The need for a separate state. He advocated for Muslims as a separate nation as evident through the repeated claim, "We are a nation", made in his speeches.

(b) The Lahore Resolution: Blueprint for a new Nation.

On March 23, 1940, the All India Muslim League adopted the Lahore Resolution in which ~~the~~ Quaid-e-Azam laid out the foundational print of Pakistan as he demanded Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Bengal and N.W.F.P. to be separated into a new state for Muslims ~~related~~ with partial or complete independence.

(c) From Direct Action To Independence.

When Muslim League declared August 16, 1946, as Direct Action Day to demonstrate their demand for Pakistan, large scale riots and violence broke out. Any attempt of Cabinet Mission was

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proving to be unfruitful. ~~when~~
Therefore, Lord Mountbatten, finally
proposed a plan for ~~separation~~ of
subcontinent under British Crown's Order.

Conclusion:

Eventhough the creation of
Pakistan was a result of
various reasons, Congress ministries
~~also~~ of 1937 had a significant
part in this journey. It was
their policies and actions that
provoked Muslims to demand
a separate state. Their
discriminatory behaviour towards
Muslim justified Muslim's demand.
Thus, one can say that the
Congress ministries of 1937 paved
the pathway for separate state.
