

Question no : 02

Political behavior of Indian National Congress

Introduction:

The period between 1937 and 1939 marked a decisive turning point in the political history of the Indian subcontinent. After the provincial elections under the Government of India Act 1935, the Indian National Congress came to power in seven provinces. Initially, claiming to represent all Indians, its actual conduct revealed a distinct Hindu majoritarian bias. This period of Congress rule provided a strong evidence to Muslims that their socio-political and economic rights ~~are~~ could not be safeguarded in a United India. Consequently, the All India Muslim League under the leadership of Quaid adopted an assertive political stance, later culminated to separate Muslim nationhood.

1. Political behavior of Indian National Congress:

Congress claimed to represent all Indians, but its rule revealed a deeper Hindu bias.
(Dr. I.H Qureshi)

i) Hindu majoritarian policies and discrimination:

Congress ministries introduced policies that favoured Hindu culture.

- ✱ Bande mataram was made compulsory in schools

- ✱ Wardha education scheme promoted Hindu symbols and religious undertones

- ✱ Promotion of Hindi and Devanagari script at the cost of Urdu

⇒ In Uttar Pradesh, Muslims were denied key administrative posts.

The Muslims soon realized that under Congress rule, they would become a hopeless majority.
(Stanley Wolpert)

ii) Suppression of Hindu Muslim identity and institutions:

The Congress discouraged Muslim organisations and student unions. Efforts were made to weaken the influence of Urdu and Islamic educational institutes.

The Congress Volunteer corps (Gandhi Seva Sangh) behaved like a semi-military Hindu organisation, thus intimidating Muslim citizens.

Moreover, muslim civil servants were pressured to join congress or resign.

Muslim culture and language was openly suppressed under the guise of nationalism.

(U.A Smith)

iii) Rejection of coalition politics:

In provinces like United Provinces, the muslim league offered a coalition, but congress rejected it. Also, it demanded league members to join congress as individuals, not as a party.

This refusal exposed the congress's unwillingness to share power with muslims. Jinnah called this behavior a naked form of Hindu domination under the mask of democracy.

iv) Resignation and political outcome:

When Britain declared India part of world war II) without consultation, congress ministers resigned in protest. The resignation was celebrated as a Day of Deliverance (22-Dec-1939), marking the end of congress rule.

2. Impacts of Muslim League's political strategy and the Demand for Pakistan

i) Realization of Muslim political vulnerability

The Congress rule served as a political eye opener for Muslims. It demonstrated that in a Hindu majority democracy, Muslims would be marginalised. Jinnah, who previously believed in Hindu-Muslim unity, now moved towards the idea of separate Muslim nationalism.

The Congress rule was nothing short of a Hindu Raj.

(M. Ali Jinnah, Speech at Lahore, 1946)

ii) Reorganization and revival of Muslim League:

Under Jinnah's leadership, the League reorganized itself from 1937 onwards through:

- restructuring Provincial Muslim League
- mobilizing Muslim students and Ulema

League's membership increased drastically, which transformed the League into a mass political party.

"Congress tyranny gave birth to muslim political awakening".
(Ch. Khaliquzzaman).

iii) Ideological Shift toward muslim nationalism:

The failures of Congress ministries convinced Jinnah that muslims were a separate nation.

He revived the two nation theory, and later on, the league began to emphasize the distinct religion, culture and heritage of muslims.

Hindus and muslims belong to two different civilizations...
they cannot form one nation.
(Jinnah-1940)

iv) Lahore Resolution and the Demand for Pakistan:

The cumulative effects of congress behavior led directly to the Lahore Resolution. It called for independent states in muslim majority areas making the first formal demand for Pakistan.

The 1937-1939 period thus served as a turning point in transforming the league's objective from safeguards to sovereignty.

Without the bitter experience of Congress rule, there might have been no Pakistan Resolution.

(Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain Qureshi)

v) Strategic alliances and political mobilization.

The Muslim League capitalized on Muslim grievances:

- Organized mass campaigns, press and students federations
- United various Muslim leaders and sects under one banner
- Emphasized Islamic solidarity and economic security under Muslim rule

Congress misrule was the greatest ally of the Muslim League.

(Penderel Moon, Stranger in India)

1937-1939: Congress rule → Muslims alienated

1940: Lahore Resolution (Demand for Pakistan)

Lahore Resolution



Highlighted regions (future Pakistan)

- ↳ Punjab
- ↳ Sindh
- ↳ Balochistan
- ↳ NWFP
- ↳ East Bengal

Conclusion:

The Congress ministries exposed the true nature of Hindu majoritarian politics under the ambit of nationalism. Their discriminatory policies alienated Muslims and transformed the Muslim League into a mass political movement. Under Jinnah's leadership, this crystallized the concept of separate Muslim nationhood, that ultimately led to the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

It was not the British who divided India; it was the Congress attitude during 1937-39 that made Pakistan inevitable.
(Sir Griffiths)

Question no: 03

Evolution of the Muslim League

Introduction:

The All-India Muslim League (AIML), founded in 1906 at Dhaka, initially began as a moderate constitutional party for protecting Muslim interests through constitutional means. However, it evolved into a sole representative of Indian Muslims over the next four decades and became a driving force behind the creation of Pakistan in 1947. This transformation was shaped by a series of political, ideological and communal developments which gradually convinced Muslims that their destiny lies in a separate homeland.

The Muslim League's journey from petition to partition was the story of Muslim political awakening in India. $\pm$

(Dr. I.H Qureshi)

1. The founding phase (1906-1911): A moderate constitutional building

a) Formation at Dhaka (1906)

The Muslim League was founded on November 30, 1906, at Dhaka under

the leadership of Sir Agha Khan, Nawab Salimullah and Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk.

The league aimed to:

- Promote loyalty to The British Government
- Safeguard muslim political rights
- Represent muslim opinions in political reforms

Loyalty to The British crown and unity among muslims were the twin pillars of the league's early policy.

(Keith Callard, Pakistan: A political study)

b) Early ideology and methods:

The league followed loyal constitutionalism and cooperation with the British. It avoided confrontational policies and sought separate political safeguards, not independence. The Simla deputation (1906) established muslim demand for separate electorates.

c) Lucknow pact (1916): Beginning of political cooperation

The muslim league and Congress cooperated for the first time in 1916. The Lucknow pact demanded separate electorates and weightage

for Muslims in minority provinces. Jinnah, known as the 'Ambassador of Hindu-Muslim Unity' symbolized this cooperation.

The League sought representation based on Muslim identity, not numerical equality. Early leaders emphasized constitutional progress not separation.

2. The transition phase (1919-1937): Rise of political awareness and disillusionment

i) Post-war political awakening

The Montague-Chelmsford reforms (1919) introduced limited self-government but failed to satisfy Muslims. The Khilafat movement (1919-1924) linked religion with politics, hence creating emotional unity among Muslims.

ii) Collapse of Hindu-Muslim Unity

After the non-cooperation movement ended and Khilafat collapsed, relations deteriorated. Hindu revivalist movement like Shuddhi movement alarmed Muslims. Jinnah resigned from Congress because it had degenerated into a Hindu body.

iii) Nehru report

Nehru report proposed a unitary constitution and joint electorates, thus ignoring muslim demands for safeguards.

In response, Jinnah presented his fourteen points (1929), demanding:

- Federal system
- Separate electorates
- muslim majorities in Punjab and Bengal

The Nehru report buried the idea of Hindu-muslim unity.

(Ch. Khaliquzzaman)

iv) Failure of constitutional reforms and weak muslim league organization

Round table conferences (1930-32) and communal award (1932) recognized separate electorates but failed to solve the communal issue. Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address proposed a separate muslim state in North West India.

By early 1930s, The league was politically fragmented and weak. Regional muslim leaders of Punjab, Unionists and Bengal politicians) operated

independently.

3. The Transformation phase (1937-1940): From safeguards to Separate Nation

a) 1937 ^{Elections} and Congress rule

The league performed poorly in 1937 elections, winning only 109 of 482 muslim seats. Congress tyrannical rule exposed muslim political helplessness.

b) Reorganization of League under Jinnah

Jinnah transformed the league into a mass political organization by;

- ❑ Establishing branches across India
- ❑ Recruiting youth, women, and religious leaders
- ❑ Reviving muslim press and propaganda

c) Lahore Resolution (1940) and shift in ideology

The league formally demanded independent muslim states at Lahore session. It gave ideological clarity and unity to muslims.

After this, muslim league shifted its ideology and made a clear stance

to separate independent state. The two-nation theory finally culminated to separation of independent ~~to~~ muslim states.

4. The Final phase (1940-1947): From demand to achievement

a) Pakistan movement intensifies

The league mobilized India muslims across India under the slogan 'Pakistan ka matlab kya - La illaha illallah'. It became the sole representative of muslim political will. Even 1945-1946 elections confirmed this muslim dominance.

b) Negotiations and deadlocks

The league participated in Simla Conference and Cripps mission, but the unilateral demand of United India led to ~~collapse~~^{rise} of muslim league's demand of separate homeland for muslims.

c) Ideological maturity:

After the congress rule, by 1947, muslim league evolved to an ideological matured league, making a clear and profound resolution of Pakistan movement thus protecting

and safeguarding the socio-economic and political rights of muslims.

Conclusion :

The All-India muslim league evolved through distinct phases - from a constitutional body to mass nationalist movement.

Each key movement led to transform the ideological and foundational pillars of muslim league. This results in providing a strong platform for muslims to raise their voice for protecting their ^{political} interests, all paving the way for a separate homeland for muslims.