

- Pakistan Affairs
- Topic - Wise Test
- Aroosa

Test # 1

Question No 2

Analyze the political behaviour of the Indian National Congress during its ministries (1937-1939). How did these events influence Muslim League's political strategy and the demand for Pakistan?

1- Introduction

The ministries of Indian National Congress from 1937-39 served as a landmark event in the history of Indian Muslims. It was the first and foremost event, which triggered the Indian Muslims to demand a separate homeland. Such as, Dr. Hamidullah in his book, "The Constitutional and Political History of Pakistan," aptly said, "The Congress Rule of 1937-39 has become an eye-opener for Muslims of India to demand separate homeland." In 1937 elections, the Congress emerged victorious and formed their government in India. During this time, their behaviour with Muslims was hostile and severe, which ultimately impacted the Muslim League's political strategy in multiple ways. For instance, the started believing on separate Muslim identity, congress as representative of Hindus, dent on Hindu-Muslim unity. Thus, all these circumstances compelled Muslims to demand for a separate homeland.

2 - Overview of 1937 elections and Congress Ministries

- **1937 elections** → Congress won in 5 provinces with majority
→ Muslim League failed to secure majority
- **Congress Ministries** → 5 provinces, including Bihar, Madras, Orissa, United Provinces, and Central Provinces
↓
Made coalition government in NWFP, Bengal, and Bombay

3 - Political behaviour of Indian National Congress (1937 - 39)

After winning the 1937 elections, the Indian National Congress became very hostile towards Muslims and launched many policies and schemes to dominate the India Muslims with their staunch political behaviour. Such events are discussed below.

3.1, Warda Scheme

This scheme was launched by Ghandi with a purpose to brain wash Muslims and divert their focus towards One-Nation Theory.

3.2, Hoisted three-colour flag

The Indian National Congress

hoisted The three-coloured flag, which referred to the rule of British and Hindus in India. This behaviour was intended to exclude Muslims from Indian politics.

3.3) Widei Mandes Scheme

The objective of this scheme was to convert Muslims to Hinduism in order to weaken Muslims on all fronts.

3.4) Bande Matram

The song of Bande Matram was given a national rank and everyone was forced to sing it, especially Muslims.

3.5) Hindu - Muslim Riots

The Hindu-Muslim riots was also a result of autocratic Congress Rule. The powerful Congress leaders used to imprison members of Muslim League, abducted their children and family members, thereupon increasing the riots and differences among Muslims and Hindus.

4) The influence of Congress Ministries on Muslim League's political strategy and the demand for Pakistan

4.1) Emerged the thought of Muslim's separate identity

The notorious events during Congress Rule has given birth to the thought that Muslims are separate nation and have their own identity. Therefore, Muslim League took the front role as Muslim political party and demanded a separate homeland for Muslims. As aptly put by Quaid-e-Azam,

“Hindus and Muslims though living in same town and village have never blended into one nation. They were always two separate identities.”

4.2) Proved Congress as sole Hindu representative

Furthermore, the 1937 Congress Rule has proved that Congress only worked for the interests of Hindus, making them powerful in India. The Congress suppressed Muslims by every mean possible, which influenced the Muslim League's political strategy of becoming representative of Muslims. ^{just} like Congress representing Hindus. In this regard, Quaid-e-Azam

said,

"The Muslim can neither expect justice nor fair play under Congress government."

4.3, Hindu - Muslim unity as unmaterialized dream

Owing to the harsh steps of Congress against Muslims, the leader of Muslim League have clearly realized that the dream of Hindu - Muslim unity is impossible to achieve. Thus, it awakened their conscience and compelled them to demand for separate Muslim state, where they would have all freedom be it political or religious.

4.4, Demand of separate homeland for Muslims

Upon seeing the behaviour of Congress leaders, the Muslim League changed their strategy of demanded independence for united India. Instead, the leaders of Muslim League started demanding a separate homeland for Muslims, where they can live freely as per their whims.

4.5, Need of Muslims political awakener

Last but not the least, due to cruel rule of the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League have realized that it is high time to awake Muslims politically. So, they can not rely on others. Therefore, the political savyness and conciousness of Muslim League leaders after Congress Rule increased their support for demand of Pakistan

5, Conclusion

To conclude, the ministries of Indian National Congress (1937-39) has awakened the conciousness of Muslims to demand separate homeland. Their harsh political behaviour, like launch of Warda Scheme and hoisting three-colour flag, served as eye-opener of Muslim of India. As a result, all these events significantly impacted the Muslim League's political strategy and demand for Pakistan. Notably, the Muslim League realized separate identity of Muslims, worked for ^{political} awakener of Muslims, and proved Congress as Hindus representative. Thus, this behaviour of India National Congress profoundly influenced Muslim League, leading to the demand of Pakistan. In words of -Quaid-e-Azam,

"The 2.5 years of Congress Rule are a soaring experience for Muslim and has given us very better lessons."