

First Phase of the Indian National Movement (1885–1905)

3

Programme and Achievements of The Early Nationalists (Moderates)

Exercises

Multiple Choice Questions

1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (c)
6. (d) 7. (d) 8. (a)
9. (i) (d) (ii) (b) (iii) (c) (iv) (b) (v) (c) 10. (d)
11. (b) 12. (a) 13. (d) 14. (c) 15. (d)
16. (b) 17. (c) 18. (d) 19. (b)

Short-Answer Questions

1. Which period of the National Movement is known as the period of the Early Nationalists?

Ans. The phase of National Movement from 1885 to 1905 is known as the period of the Early Nationalists.

2. Name any three leaders of the Congress who are known as Early Nationalists.

Ans. Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendra Nath Banerjea, Gopal Krishna Gokhale etc are known as Early Nationalists.

3. What was the attitude of the Early Nationalists towards the British?

Ans. (i) The Early Nationalists were friendly to the British.

(ii) They loved western institutions and culture. They were influenced by the western thought, culture, education, literature and history.

(iii) They considered their association with England as a boon and not a curse because it had done much good to India by removing various defects from the Indian society and culture.

4. What was the attitude of the Early Nationalists towards freedom of the Press?

Ans. The Early Nationalists opposed the restrictions imposed by the Government on the freedom of speech, press, thought and association.

5. Describe any two methods of the Early Nationalists to achieve their aims.

Ans. (i) The early nationalists believed in patience and conciliation and not in confrontation.

(ii) They believed in orderly progress and adopted constitutional and means to realise their aims.

6. Give one reason why the Early Nationalists adopted a mild attitude towards the British Government.

Ans. Early Nationalists adopted a mild attitude towards the British Government because they wanted to follow the path of least resistance as the national movement was still in its nascent stage.

7. Give two points on which the Early Nationalists are criticised.

- Ans.** (i) Many critics are of the opinion that the Early Nationalists did not achieve much success.
(ii) They were treated with contempt by the foreign rulers and their demands were not fulfilled because of mild approach.

8. Who was the Early Nationalist leader who came to be known as the Grand Old Man of India?

Ans. Dadabhai Naoroji

9. Name the Congress leader who founded the Servants of India Society.

Ans. Gopal Krishna Gokhale

10. On which two points was the British administration criticised?

- Ans.** (i) Exploitation of resources.
(ii) Ignoring to bring advancement in Indian agricultural system.

11. Give one reason why the British Government was friendly towards the Indian National Congress in the beginning.

Ans. In the beginning the British Government was friendly towards the Indian National Congress since almost all leaders of Congress were supporters of British rule. They were not aggressive in their approach and took recourse to constitutional means.

Structured Essay-Type Questions

1. The period from 1885 to 1905 is called the period of the Early Nationalists. In this context, explain the following :

- (a) Why is this period called the period of the Early Nationalists?
- (b) Demands of the Early Nationalists.
- (c) Methods of Early Nationalists.

Ans. (a) The phase from 1885 to 1905 is known as the period of Early Nationalists because during this period the affairs of the Congress and the reigns of the National Movement remained in the hands of the Early Nationalist leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendra

Nath Banerjea, Pherozshah Mehta, Gopal Krishna Gokhale etc. They concerned themselves with the demand for reforms and adopted constitutional and peaceful means to achieve their objectives.

- (b) The Early Nationalists demanded reduction in land revenue, rapid development of modern industries, facilities for primary, higher and technical education for the upliftment of Indians, the expansion and reform of the Legislative Council, reduction in expenditure on the army etc.
- (c) The Early Nationalists believed in patience and conciliation and not in confrontation. They adopted constitutional means to realise their aims. Processions were taken out, meetings were held, speeches were delivered and discussions were held on various economic, social and political questions. After the discussion resolutions were adopted. The Early Nationalists drafted petitions and memorandums and submitted them to the Government.

2. Briefly describe the demands of the Early Nationalists under the following heads :

- (a) Constitutional Reforms (b) Economic Reforms
- (c) Administrative Reforms (d) Defence of Civil Rights

- Ans.** (a) (i) The Early Nationalists demanded the expansion and reform of the Legislative Councils. They wanted that the membership and powers of these councils should be increased and the members of the councils should be directly elected by the people.
- (ii) Later on they put forward the claim of Swaraj or self-government within the British Empire.
- (b) (i) The Early Nationalists demanded reduction in land revenue.
- (ii) They demanded development of the modern industries. They advocated the use of Swadeshi goods.
- (iii) They demanded a basic change in the existing

pattern of taxation and expenditure. They demanded the abolition of salt tax because it hit the poor and the lower middle class.

(iv) They called for reduction in expenses on the army and stopping the drain of wealth.

(c) (i) The Early Nationalists were in favour of Indianisation of administrative services. They demanded the appointment of the educated Indians to higher posts.

(ii) They criticised the expenditure on the Civil Services because its members were Europeans and they were paid high salaries.

(iii) They demanded the repeal of the Arms Act and Licence Act and separation of judiciary from the executive.

(iv) They wanted simultaneous examinations in India and England for the Indian Civil Service.

(d) The Early Nationalists opposed tooth and nail the restrictions imposed by the Government on the freedom of speech, press, thought and association.

3. Critically examine the contributions of the Early Nationalists under the following heads :

(a) Arousing political consciousness among the people.

(b) Saving the Indian masses from being misled.

(c) Exposing the true nature of the British Rule.

(d) Criticism of their achievements.

Ans. (a) For arousing political consciousness among the people processions were taken out, meetings were held, speeches were delivered and discussions were held on various economic, social and political questions.

(b) The Early Nationalists educated the Indians and aroused political consciousness among them and also saved them from being misled.

(c) Dadabhai Naoroji exposed the true nature of British rule in India. In his book 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India. He asserted that the British Rule and its

costly administration was a heavy drain on the poor resources of India. He revealed the basic causes of India's poverty and exposed the exploitation of the Indian people through his writings.

- (d) Early Nationalists believed the British and felt that sooner or later they would agree to establish representative institutions in India. They did not see that the British interests clashed with the Indian masses. They laid the foundation of the freedom struggle.

4. Briefly explain the contributions made by each of the following to the National Movement :

- (a) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (b) Surendra Nath Banerjea
- (c) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Ans. (a) (i) Dadabhai Naoroji was elected the President of the Indian National Congress thrice (1886, 1893 and 1906). He became so popular that he is called the Grand Old Man of India.

(ii) He was in favour of appointing the educated Indians to high posts. He started movements against the Vernacular Press Act and the atrocious treatment of the Zamindars with the poor peasants.

(iii) The credit for demanding Swaraj from the Congress platform (in 1906) for the first time, goes to Dadabhai Naoroji. Swaraj was the key-note of his presidential address at Calcutta Session in 1906.

(iv) He was also a great economic thinker. In his book 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India' he asserted that the British Rule and its costly administration was a heavy drain on the poor resources of India. He revealed the basic cause of India's poverty and exposed the exploitation of the Indian people through his writings.

(b) (i) To fight against the wrong policies of the British and injustice, Surendra Nath Banerjea founded the

Indian Association in 1876. Its objective was to educate the people, to create strong public opinion in the country, to arouse political consciousness and unity among the people and to include masses in the public movements of the day.

- (ii) He started agitation against the Licence Act, the Arms Act, the Vernacular Press Act and against lowering the age from 21 years to 19 years to appear in the ICS Examination.
 - (iii) He opposed the partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon in 1905. He started Swadeshi and Boycott movement against it.
 - (iv) He vehemently opposed the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 which introduced separate electorates for the Hindus and the Muslims.
- (c) (i) Gopal Krishna Gokhale opposed the policies of the British Government whenever necessary. He attacked the toll tax because it was a burden on the poor.
- (ii) He criticised the Government for incurring huge expenditure on the English army, for adopting the policy of racial discrimination in appointments to high posts, imposing production tax on cotton, ignoring elementary education etc.
- (iii) He laid great stress on encouraging industry and on appointing Indians to high posts so that the money saved could be used for the welfare of the people.
5. The men who dominated the Congress from 1885 to 1905 were liberal in their views and outlook. In this context :
- (a) Name the Early Nationalist leaders who were famous during this period.
 - (b) State the methods adopted by them.
 - (c) Describe the attitude of the British towards them.

Ans. (a) Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendra Nath Banerjea, Pherozeshah Mehta, Gopal Krishna Gokhale etc.

(b) The Early Nationalists believed in patience and conciliation and not in confrontation. They believed in

orderly progress and adopted constitutional means to realise their aims. Processions were taken out, meetings were held, speeches were delivered and discussions were held on various economic, social and political questions. After the discussion resolutions were adopted. The Early Nationalists drafted petitions and memorandums and submitted them to the Government.

- (c) In the beginning the British adopted a favourable attitude towards the Early Nationalists since they were supporter of British rule in India. Gradually, the Early Nationalists started demanding more rights for the people and the British became hostile to the Early Nationalists and began to look upon them with suspicion.