

## Mass Phase of the Indian National Movement (1916–1947)

7

### The National Movement (During The First World War)

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#### Exercises

#### Multiple Choice Questions

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|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c)  | 2. (b)  | 3. (c)  | 4. (d)  | 5. (b)  |
| 6. (d)  | 7. (a)  | 8. (d)  | 9. (c)  | 10. (a) |
| 11. (d) | 12. (d) | 13. (d) | 14. (a) | 15. (b) |
| 16. (b) | 17. (d) |         |         |         |

#### Short-Answer Questions

1. When were the Home Rule Leagues started in India?

**Ans.** In 1916

2. Name two leaders linked with the Home Rule Leagues.

**Ans.** Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant.

3. Name the famous pact which united the Assertive/Radical Nationalists and the Early Nationalists in 1916.

**Ans.** Lucknow Pact

4. Why was the Lucknow Pact signed between the Muslim League and the Congress in 1916?

**Ans.** England was fighting against Turkey in the First World War. This caused resentment among the Muslims as they felt that the British were anti-Muslim. This change in attitude led the Muslims to support the Congress and hence, Lucknow Pact was signed between the Congress and the Muslim League.

5. Why was the 1916 Lucknow Session of the Indian National Congress important?

**Ans.** The Lucknow Session of Indian National Congress is considered important because it achieved Hindu-Muslim unity. It brought together the Radicals, the Moderates and the Muslim League.

**6.** Give one evil effect of the Lucknow Pact of 1916.

**Ans.** By the acceptance of separate electorates for Muslims, the Congress paved the way for future communal tension.

**7.** With what reason did the British Government introduce the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919?

**Ans.** In 1917, it was declared that “the British policy was the full development of self-governing institutions as an integral part of the British Empire.” The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms were announced in 1919 to fulfil this aim.

**8.** What do you mean by dyarchy?

**Ans.** Under dyarchy, the subjects to be dealt with by the Provincial Government were divided into two parts— (i) reserved subjects, and (ii) transferred subjects. The Reserved Subjects were administered by the Governor with the help of the Executive Council and the Transferred Subjects with the help of Council of Ministers.

**9.** Give one merit of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms.

**Ans.** Under Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, the system of indirect election was replaced by the system of direct election.

**10.** Give one drawback of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.

**Ans.** The Montague-Chelmsford Reforms introduced the system of separate electorates for the Sikhs and the Anglo-Indians.

### **Structured Essay-Type Questions**

**1.** With reference to the First World War, briefly describe the following :

(a) The attitude of the nationalists towards it.

(b) Its effects on the two groups of the Congress.

(c) Methods adopted by the Government to appease the Indian people.

**Ans.** (a) There was a race among the imperialist powers to acquire more and more colonies which led to the conflict among the various imperialist powers. India was then a colony of England. As such, India too was thrown into the fire of war in order to safeguard the British interests. The nationalist leaders resented



this step of the British Government and held demonstrations against it. They were opposed to the British decision of using the Indian soldiers as fodder for war cannons without even caring to assess the public opinion. On the other hand, Early Nationalists followed a conciliatory policy hoping that the British Government would grant India Swaraj as soon as the war would end in its favour. They had, however, forgotten that the British were fighting the First World War to protect their colonies and not to relinquish them.

- (b) Nationalist feelings in India grew stronger because of the outbreak of the First World War. In 1916, two Home Rule League movements were started in India. One of them was led by Lokmanya Tilak while the other was led by Annie Besant. The feelings of nationalism and the demand for Swaraj grew stronger. Annie Besant was imprisoned and the Government let loose repression. The nationalists were tortured and sentenced for various terms. In 1916, both the groups of the Congress were reunited and even the Congress and the Muslim League shared a common platform at Lucknow, pledging themselves to work together to achieve a common goal. The revolutionaries were also active for a short period. The Ghadar Party in America had an echo of its activities in India as well.

- (c) In 1919, the British Government announced constitutional concessions under the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms so as to please the nationalist leaders. But no substantial reforms were introduced after the war. It was the time when Gandhiji stepped into the political arena.

The First World War also caused unprecedented price rise. Hence, to appease the Indian people the English had to promote some industries so as to check the rising unemployment and poverty.

2. The Lucknow Pact is regarded as a landmark in the History of India. In this context, explain the following points :

- (a) The parties signing the pact
- (b) Any two provisions of this pact
- (c) The importance of the pact
- (d) Criticism of the pact

**Ans.** (a) The Lucknow Pact was signed between the Congress and the Muslim League in 1916 at Lucknow.

- (b) (i) The Council of the Secretary of State for India shall be abolished and he shall have same position in regard to the Government of India as he does in relation to the Government of self-governing colonies (like Canada).
- (ii) One-half of the members of the Governor General's Executive Council shall be Indians elected by the elected members of the Imperial Legislative Council.
- (c) The Lucknow Pact was a marvellous step in achieving Hindu-Muslim unity because the success of the National Movement depended on Hindu-Muslim unity. The Assertive Nationalists alone would be less effective than a united national organisation. The unity between the Assertive Nationalists, the Early Nationalists and the Muslim League could now impress upon the Government the urgency of their demands.
- (d) (i) The wishes of the masses were not considered, the Pact was confined only to the educated and to the rich Hindus and Muslims.
- (ii) The Congress lost its secular character by accepting separate electorates for Muslims and hence, paved the way for communal tension in the future.
- (iii) 'Communal Veto' in legislation was provided by this pact. Because no Legislature could proceed with any bill, if 3/4th of the members of particular community opposed it.

**3.** With reference to the Lucknow Pact of 1916, answer the following questions :

- (a) What were the terms of the Lucknow Pact?



(b) Why was this Pact important?

- Ans.** (a) (i) The Council of the Secretary of State for India shall be abolished and he shall have same position in regard to the Government of India as he does in relation to the Government of self-governing colonies (like Canada).
- (ii) One-half of the members of the Governor General's Executive Council shall be Indians elected by the elected members of the Imperial Legislative Council.
- (iii) The Imperial Legislative Council shall have 150 members. Four-fifth members of the Imperial Legislative Council shall be elected, but one-third of these shall be Muslims elected on the principle of separate electorates.
- (iv) Except in military and foreign affairs the Imperial Legislative Council shall have full control on the Government of India.
- (v) The Government of India shall not ordinarily interfere in the local affairs of the Provinces.
- (b) The Lucknow Pact was a marvellous step in achieving Hindu-Muslim unity because the success of the National Movement depended on Hindu-Muslim unity. The Assertive Nationalists alone would be less effective than a united national organisation. The unity between the Assertive Nationalists, the Early Nationalists and the Muslim League could now impress upon the Government the urgency of their demands.
4. The Home Rule Movement is regarded as an important milestone in the achievement of independence. In this regard, answer the following :
- (a) Any two leaders who took an active part in it.
- (b) Two steps taken by the Government to curb it.
- (c) Its importance in the history of the National Movement.

- Ans.** (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant.
- (b) (i) The Government made use of the Defence of India Rule to curb the activities of the agitators. Various restrictions were imposed on the leaders of this movement. Tilak was prosecuted for his fiery and exciting speeches.
- (ii) Various restrictions were imposed on the Press by using the Indian Press Act of 1910 and the students were forbidden from taking part in this movement.
- (c) **Importance of the Home Rule Movement:** The Home Rule Movement has its own importance in the history of the National Movement of India.
- (i) It transformed the National Movement into a people's movement as more and more people began to take part in it. Both Annie Besant and Tilak urged the workers to redouble their efforts to carry the Home Rule propaganda to the villages.
- (ii) It worked as lighthouse when the political atmosphere in the country was quite gloomy. When most of the Indians did not know about the fate of their country the Home Rule Leagues pledged to work zealously for the sole aim of achieving Home Rule.
- (iii) The Home Rule Movement made both Annie Besant and Tilak not only popular but also great heroes among the masses. The more the British Government tried to shower its wrath on them, the more popular they became day by day. While Tilak earned the epithet of 'Lokmanya' (respected by the people), Annie Besant was made the President of the Congress Session held at Calcutta in 1917.
- (iv) The Home Rule Movement found its echoes in many foreign countries also. Indian Home Rule Leagues were established in New York as well as in London and their branches were opened in many other towns of America and England. Indian leaders like Lala Lajpat Rai, KD Shastri and NS



Hardikar went to these countries and won many sympathisers for granting Home Rule to India.

Many eminent American Senators and Congressmen wrote and spoke for self-government in India. The Labour Party of England, at its Conference at Nottingham in 1918, unanimously passed a resolution in favour of Home Rule to India.

(v) The Government of India Act of 1919 was the direct result of the Home Rule Movements.

**5.** Using the following points, explain the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms :

- (a) Any two causes of their passage.
- (b) The system of dyarchy introduced in the provinces.
- (c) Reaction of the people to these reforms.

**Ans.** (a) The Reforms of 1909 were not satisfactory and adequate. They failed to appease the Indians and they clamoured for more rights. In the beginning, the Muslims were satisfied with the policy of the British but gradually they also got disillusioned. The Indians had helped the British with men and money during the war, so the British passed this Act to fulfil their promises given to the Indians during the war. The activities of the leaders of the Home Rule Movement and the revolutionaries alarmed the Government. The British wanted to introduce reforms in the administration of India to pacify and appease the nationalists.

- (b) The system of dyarchy was introduced in the provinces. Under this system, the subjects to be dealt with by the Provincial Government were divided into two parts—
- (i) reserved subjects, and (ii) transferred subjects.
- The reserved subjects, such as finance, law and order, irrigation, etc., were administered by the Governor with the help of the Executive Council nominated by him. The transferred subjects such as education, public health, agriculture, etc., were administered by the Governor with the help of Council of Ministers