

Paper Name: Indian National Movement

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UNIT V

AUGUST PROPOSALS

A statement consisting of new proposals was issued on August 8, 1940 and it has been called. "The August Offer" This proposal was made by the viceroy on behalf of British Government. Notable on them as follows:-

1. Viceroy's Council would be expanded to include a certain number of representations of all political parties.
2. War Advisory Council would be established.
3. A New constitutional scheme would be built within the British Commonwealth of Nations.
4. Views of minorities would given full weightage.
5. The constitution making body was to be set up after the end of World War - II.

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

On 14th July 1942, working committee of INC adopted Quit India Resolution. The resolution contains, “That the immediate ending of the British rule in India is an urgent need both for the sake of India and for the success of United Nations” On 9th August 1942. Mahatma Gandhi and other leading congress men were arrested. In this situation people did not able to follow clear cut activities. Gandhi called upon the people to ‘do or die’ and further said “we shall either free India or die in the attempt” congress party issued a booklet which contained 12 point programme as to how the movement was to be carried on. It includes conduct peace strikes, manufacture of salt, non – payment of land revenue. In this movement mass demonstrations, processions, meetings were conducted. Workers from textile mills and other factories also participated in this movement. Railway stations, post offices, police stations and Government Offices were attacked by the public. It continued till release of Mahatama Gandhi. The Quiet India Movement was a memorable event of our national movement. The slogan of ‘do or die’ entered the souls of the people.

Rajaji Plan

In March 1944, C. Rajagopalachariar put forward his formula (or) plan to end the political deadlock prevailing in the country. He

suggested certain measures for settlement of conflict arised between INC and Muslim League. The main content of the plans as follows:-

1. After the end of world war - II a plebiscite would be conduced for all the inhabitants in the Muslim Majority areas in North – West and North – East would decide whether or not they should form separate state.
2. Mutual agreement shall be entered into for the safeguarding defence, commerce and communications and for other essential purposes.

On the basis of Rajaji plan, Gandhi met Jinnah for resolving the deadlock. But the negotiation took failure.

SIMLA CONFERENCE

On June 14th 1945, Lord Wavell ordered the release of all congress working committee members and proposed talks to set up a new viceroy's Executive Council which would be entirely Indian except for the Viceroy and the commander - in - chief. The Viceroy invited both congress leaders and Muslim leaders to participate Simla Conference which was held on 25th June 1945. The negotiations continued till 14th July 1945. But ultimately the negotiation broke down owing to disagreement between the Congress and Muslim League regarding the composition of the viceroy's executive council. Hence Lord Wavell announced the failure of conference o 14th July 1945.

ROLE OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY (INA)

Indian National Army (INA) was an armed force formed in 1942. It was first formed by capt Mohan Singh. The first division of the INA with 16300 soldiers was formed on 1942. The more vigorous phase of the INA began with the arrival of Subhas Chandra Bose. His famous slogan was “you give me blood and I will give you freedom’ In 1944, Battalion I of INA captured Mowdok (Chittagong) and hoisted the tricolor flag on Indian Soil. Unfortunately Japan withdraw support to INA from the Indo – Burma to meet American threat in the south pacific. The retreat of the INA began in the middle of 1944 and ended by mid 1945 resulting in surrendered of INA troops to the British Army. S.C. Bose reported to have died in plan crash over Taipeh, Taiwan on 18th August 1945.

CABINET DELEGATION

The cabinet delegation consists of Lord Pethick Lawrence, Sir Stafford Cripps and A.V.Alexander. This delegaton arrivel Delhi on March 24, 1946. This mission undertook extensive talks of with leading public figures in India and presented its plan as follows.

- (i) There should be a union of India embodying both British India and the States.
- (ii) The paramount of the crown was to lapse for the purpose of framing a new constitution, for which a constituent Assembly was to be elected

- (iii) An interim Government was to be set up with the support of major political parties.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission plan. It held its first meeting on December 9, 1946. Dr. Sachidananda Sinha was elected as the temporary president of the assembly. Later Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected as the president of the assembly H.C.Mukherjee and V.T.Krishnamachary were elected as vice – presidents.

As to its composition, it had been elected through an election by the member of the provincial Legislative Assemblies. As a result of the partition of India, the representatives of Bengal, Punjab, Sind, North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and sylhet (Assam) ceased to be member of the constituent Assembly of India and fresh elections conducted in the new provinces of Bengal and East Punjab. Hence the membership of the Assembly reduced to 299.

MOUNT BATTEN PLAN

On June 3, 1947 Lord Mount Batten published a plan outlining his solution of India's Political Problems. The main contents of the plan as follows.

- (i) It has always been the desire of His Majesty's Government that power should be transferred in accordance with the wishes of the Indian people themselves.
- (ii) Partition of India is inevitable. It is the only possible solution.
- (iii) Bengal, Assam and the Punjab provinces were to be partitioned too.
- (iv) A referendum was to be held in the North – West frontier provinces to decide whether that province wanted to join Pakistan or India.
- (v) A boundary commission would be setup to settle the details of the boundaries in case partition was decided upon.

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE ACT – 1947

The Indian Independence Bill was introduced in Parliament in July 4, 1947 and it was enacted on July 18, 1947. The main provisions of the act were as follows.

- (i) The Act – provided for the creation of two independent dominions, India and Pakistan on 15th August 1947.
- (ii) Each dominion was to have a Governor General who was to be appointed by the British Monarch.
- (iii) After August 15, 1947 the British Government was not to control the domination on the provinces.

- (iv) The constituent Assemblies of both dominions were empowered to frame laws for their respective territories till the new constitution came into force.
- (v) The Act proclaimed the lapse of British Paramount over the India States.

PARTITION OF INDIA

The plan of Mount Batten was accepted by all the political parties. The Muslim League was jubilant because it had, after all said and done got their demand. The congress accepted the partition because it was unavoidable under the circumstances. The plan was put into effect without delay. Legislative assemblies of Punjab and Bengal decided in favour of the partition. East Bengal and West Punjab joined Pakistan. The referendum in the sylhet resulted in the incorporation of that district in East Bengal. Two boundary commissioner were constituted to denunciate the boundaries of the new provinces. The referendum in the North – West Frontier provinces and the Sind threw in their lot with Pakistan.

Reference Books

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