

Simla Deputation 1906

Q: Why Simla Deputation was organized in 1906? [7]

Ans: Muslims had watched the reaction of Hindus towards Partition of Bengal with great dismay. They saw a massive wave of organized protest which they fear would result in the partition being reversed. The Muslims knew that they were not able to provide such a level of protest to maintain the partition. So the Muslims organized the Simla deputation to the viceroy for the maintenance of partition of Bengal.

Further, the Indian national congress was dominated by Hindus, Muslims feared that the Hindu agitation would lead to the Hindi becoming the national language, or even the Muslims forcibly converted to Hinduism. So to get their rights Muslims organized the Simla deputation.

The new liberal Govt. was elected in Britain in 1905; liberals stated that they would increase local participation in the Govt. of India through elections. Muslims feared that they would soon be dominated by Hindus in the local Govt. So they organized the Simla deputation to see the viceroy and to inform him about their reservations and demands, So that they might be included in the coming reforms.

Q: What was the importance of the Simla Deputation in the history of Indian Muslims? [7]

Ans: The acceptance of Simla Deputation by the British was an extremely important movement in the history of Pakistan.

The acceptance by the British showed that the attempts by Sir. Syed and others to restore relations between the British and Muslims had been successful. Now the British were prepared to work with the Muslims and even to make concessions to them.

It also showed that the Muslim community had tried to ensure that it developed a secure place in the constitution by its own methods. The Hindu-Muslim rivalry which existed in day to day life now existed in the constitution as well.

The deputation showed that the Muslims had now come round to the idea that they were a separate community from Hindus which should be treated in a different way from Hindus. This was a short step from breaking away from Congress to establish a Muslim party which would protect and present Muslims rights and reservations to the Govt. of India.

The historians described this as a first step down the long road that leads to the Formation of Pakistan.