

Chapter 15. Events Leading to the Quit India Movement (1935–1943)

Very Short Questions

Question 1: Why was the Government of India Act, 1935 passed?

Answer: As the Indian failed to solve their constitutional problems, the British Government passed the Government of India Act of 1935 on the basis of the white paper.

Question 2: In what way did the outcome of the Second World War help India's demand for self-Government?

Answer: The Second World War shattered the British power, the USA and Russia emerged as World powers. Both these nations supported India's demand for self-government.

Question 3: Give any one proposal of Cripps Mission.

Answer: India would be given Dominion Status immediately after the end of Second World War.

Question 4: Name the 'Mantra', which was given by Gandhiji during Quit India Movement.

Answer: 'Do or Die'.

Question 5: What was the Day of Deliverance?

Answer: The Day of Deliverance is December 22, 1939. It was the day that Muslim League President Muhammad Ali Jinnah decided, should be the day to celebrate the resignation of all members of the rival Congress party from provincial and central offices.

Question 6: When and by whom was the August offer made?

Answer: August offer was announced on August 8, 1940 by the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow.

Question 7: Why was the August Offer rejected by the Congress? Give one reason.

Answer: Through the government proposed to set up a constitutional body, but no time limit was given within which the Constitution making body was to be set up.

Question 8: When did the individual Satyagraha campaign start?

Answer: The Satyagraha started on 17 October 1940.

Question 9: Who was selected as the first satyagrahi during the Individual Satyagraha of 1940?

Answer: Acharya Vinoba Bhave was selected as the first Satyagrahi.

Question 10: Why was the Cripps Mission rejected by the Muslim League?

Answer: The proposal of the Cripps Mission was rejected by the Muslim League because it felt that the prospect of achieving Pakistan was bleak.

Question 11: What was the proposal of Cripps Mission regarding the Princely states?

Answer: The Princely states would be free to join the Indian Union or to stay out.

Question 12: Why was Sir Stafford Cripps sent to India in 1942?

Answer: Sir Stafford Cripps was sent to India to break the political deadlock between Indian leaders and the British Government.

Question 13: When and where was the Quit India Resolution passed?

Answer: Quit India Resolution was finally passed on 8 August 1942 in Mumbai.

Question 14: What was the major cause of the failure of the Quit India Movement?

Answer: Lack of co-ordination and lack of clear cut programme were the two major causes of the failure of the movement.

Short Questions – I

Question 1: What were the circumstances during the Second World War which forced the National leaders to launch the Quit India Movement?

Answer: During the Second World War, there was a growing threat of Japanese invasion on India. The Congress leaders were of the view that to save India from the Japanese attack it was necessary that the British withdrew from India.

Question 2: Why did the Congress Ministers resign in 1939?

Answer: (i) The British Government implicated India in the Second World War without the consent of the Indians.

(ii) The Congress wanted a definite assurance from the British Government regarding independence but that assurance never came. Consequently, the Congress Ministers resigned in November 1939.

Question 3: What was the reaction of British Government to the resignation.

Answer: The British Government felt relieved by the resignation of the Congress Ministers because they controlled eight out of the eleven provinces and had the power to impair the war efforts of the Government.

Question 4: How Muslim League reacted on the resignation of Congress Ministers.

Answer: The Muslim League was jubilant over the resignation of the Congress Ministers. The Muslim League decided to celebrate the day as 'Deliverance Day'. The Muslim League saw in it an opportunity to show its loyalty to the Government and promised all help in the

War efforts on the condition that no constitutional scheme would be finalised without its approval.

Question 5: Who was Sir Stafford Cripps? Why was he sent to India in 1942?

Answer: Sir Stafford Cripps was the member of the British War Cabinet. He was sent to India in 1942 with a fresh proposal for giving dominion status to India, as a first step towards full independence.

Question 6: State any two important proposals of Crippse offer?

Answer: (i) After the conclusion of the war, steps would be taken to set up an elected body for framing a new constitution for India.
(ii) Provision will be made for the Native states to participate in the Constitution making body. Question

Question 7: How was the Constitution-making body to be constituted according to Cripps Proposal of 1942?

Answer: (i) The members from British India would be elected by the Provincial Legislative Assemblies.
(ii) Representatives of Princely States would be nominated by the rulers.

Question 8: What is meant by 'Mass struggle on non-violent lines'? Which resolution was passed on the 8th of August, 1942 leading to a mass struggle on non-violent lines?

Answer: (i) The 'Mass struggle on non-violent lines' means participation of the common people peacefully in the National Movement for freedom struggle.
(ii) Quit India Movement was passed on the 8th of August, 1942 leading to a mass struggle on non-violent lines.

Question 9: Name the leaders who played an important role during the Quit India Movement?

Answer: Jayaprakash Nayaran, Achyut Patwardhan, Kartik prasad, Ram Manohar Lohia and Aruna Asaf Ali played a prominent role in the movement.

Question 10: What were the repressive policies adopted by the Government to suppress the Quit India Movement?

Answer: The Government took severe repressive measures to suppress the movement. Public processions, meetings and the Indian press were banned. Lathi charges and tear gas shells were used by the police to disperse the crowd. Collective fines were imposed on those who participated in the movement.

Question 11: State any two points to justify the impact of the movement.

Answer: (i) The movement revealed the depth of Nationalism among the people, instilled confidence among people to achieve independence, attracted the attention of the entire World.

(ii) This movement made the British realize that Indians would not be satisfied by anything less than complete independence or freedom of its motherland from British rule.

Short Questions – II

Question 1: In what way was the Quit India Movement different from earlier movements?

Answer: The Quit India Movement was directed at asking the British to leave the country. This movement, also known as August Revolution, not only took the freedom struggle to new heights but also brought the country to the doorstep of the ultimate goal of complete independence. It is also to be noted that while the Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience Movements were completely non-violent in nature, the Quit India Movement witnessed several instances of struggle associated with acts bordering on violence. It showed the impatience of the Indian people to attain independence from colonial yoke.

Question 2: In the political scenario of 1939, important developments took place in India and abroad. In this context, mention the circumstances which led to the passage of the Act of 1935?

Answer: The following circumstances led to the passage of the Act of 1935:

- (i) The Third Round Table Conference held in November-December 1932 issued a white paper in March 1933 which gave details of the working of the new constitution promulgated under the Act.
- (ii) The Poona Pact which had replaced the Communal Award had doubled the number of seats for backward classes which were to be filled by a common joint electorate. The Act of 1935 was its first testing ground.
- (iii) In June 1933 Gandhiji suspended the Civil Disobedience Movement and it was finally withdrawn in May 1935. The British now wanted to appease the leader with some constitutional reforms.

Question 3: Why was the August offer made?

Answer: The August Offer was made by Lord Linlithgow in 1940 to end the political deadlock which had occurred during the Second World War. The Congress on 27th July, 1940 made an offer of co-operation in the War, provided its demand for independence was conceded and a provisional national Government responsible to the Central Assembly was formed at the Centre. In response to this, the Government made an offer known as August Offer.

Question 4: State any three salient proposals of the August offer.

Answer: August offer contained the following proposals:

- (i) After the war a representative Indian body would be set up immediately to frame a Constitution for India.
- (ii) The present Viceroy's Executive Council would be expanded without delay to include Indian leaders.
- (iii) The Government also reaffirmed its desire to give full weight to the opinion of the Indian Ministers.

Question 5: Japanese success in the East prompted the British Government to send the Cripps Mission to India. In this context, state the proposals of the Cripps Mission.

Answer: (i) India would be given Dominion Status immediately after the war.
(ii) A Constituent Assembly would be set up. The members from British India would be elected by the Provincial Legislative Assemblies, whereas representatives of Princely States would be nominated by their rulers.
(iii) The Provinces not consenting to the new constitution would be free to have their own constitution.
(iv) Provisions would also be made for the protection of the racial and religious minorities.
(v) The control and direction of the defence of India would be the responsibility of his Majesty's Government.

Question 6: Mention the reasons why the proposals of the Cripps Mission were rejected.

Answer: The proposals were rejected by the Congress because:
(i) It contained provision which could divide India into hundreds of independent provinces.
(ii) There was no time limit within which the Constitution making body was to be set up.
(iii) The Congress wanted that all subjects, including defence, should be handed over to the National Government.
Gandhiji was so upset at the proposals that he named it as "the post-dated cheque."

Long Questions

Question 1: Which resolution was passed on 8th August, 1942 leading to a mass struggle on non-violent lines? State any two reasons behind the launching of this movement.

Answer: The Quit India Resolution was passed by the Congress Working Committee at Bombay on 8th Aug. 1942. This resolution led to the launching of Quit India Movement in 1942. While launching this mass movement, Gandhiji said, "We shall do or die. We shall either free India or die in the attempt."

Two reasons behind the launching of Quit India Movement:

(i) Failure of Cripps mission: The Cripps mission came to India in March, 1942 to solve Indian problem. But its proposals gave nothing concrete to Indians. The feeling was that the Government was unwilling to concede to India the right of self-Government. The failure of Cripps mission created deep discontent in the country.

(ii) Threat of Japanese attack: During the World war II, the Allied forces including Britain suffered serious set-back in 1942. There was immediate danger of Japanese attack on India as Japanese forces reached up to North-Eastern borders of India. Gandhiji and other leaders were now convinced that the situation called for complete independence immediate- and unconditional.

According to Gandhiji, "India's safety, and Britain too, lies in orderly and timely British withdrawal from India." This feeling led to the launching of Quit India Movement in 1942.

Question 2: Explain the spread of the Quit India Movement.

Answer: Spread of the movement:

(i) Quit India resolution: Quit India Resolution was passed on 8th August, 1942. 'Do or Die' was the slogan of the movement.

(ii) Arrest of the leaders: In the early morning of 9th August, 1942 all the prominent leaders of the Congress including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Abdul Kalam Azad were arrested and the Congress was banned.

(iii) People's reaction: The arrests of the leaders worked as a spark. There were hartals and demonstrations all over the country. The government had to face a revolt which was unarmed but most violent in character. Government property was attacked by the people. Communication and transportation systems were totally disrupted. The students took a leading role in the movement. Colleges, universities and schools were closed. The movement was very intense in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Bengal.

Question 3: What was the impact and significance of Quit India Movement.

Answer: (i) It demonstrated the depth of the national feelings: The movement showed the depth of the national will and convinced the British that their domination in India were numbered. People from all parts of India fought together against the Britishers.

(ii) Set back to Britishers: Now the British officials had realized that the British would not be able to retain their hold on India.

(iii) Parallel Government: A significant feature of the Quit India Movement was the emergence of parallel Governments in Ballia in U.P. Midnapur in Bengal and Satara in Maharashtra.

(iv) Strengthening of Congress Socialist Party: The Quit India Movement helped in strengthening the Congress Socialist Party because of its magnificent and heroic role in the movement. Its socialist ideas had an impact on the Indian National Congress.

Picture Based Questions

Question 1: Answer the following:



(i) Name the male personality in the picture with Gandhi given alongside.

(ii) Why Britain Prime Minister sent this gentleman to India?

Answer: (i) Sir Stafford Cripps.

(ii) Britain Prime Minister sent Sir Stafford Cripps to India to break the political deadlock between leaders and the British Government.