

## CHAPTER-5 CHALLENGES TO AND RESTORATION OF THE CONGRESS SYSTEM

### 1. Explain the context of fourth general election (1967) in India.

There was a serious economic crisis during this period. The decline in agricultural production due to the failure of monsoon, serious food shortage, depletion of foreign exchange reserves, drop in industrial production and exports, rise in military expenditure and diversion of resources from planning and economic development. The economic situation triggered off price rise. People started protesting against the increase in prices of essential commodities, food scarcity, growing unemployment and the overall economic condition in the country. Bandhs and hartals were called frequently across the country. The government saw the protests as a law and order problem and not as expressions of people's problems. This further increased public bitterness and reinforced popular unrest. In 1967 general election Congress party secure majority in the Lok Sabha, but with its lowest tally of seats and share of votes since 1952.

### 2. Discuss the major issue which led to the formal split of the Congress Party in 1969.

Following President Zakir Hussain's death, syndicate proposed N. Sanjeeva Reddy as the official Congress candidate. He was an opponent of Indira Gandhi. Indira Gandhi supported the Vice-President V.V. Giri as an independent candidate. The Congress President S. Nijalingappa issued a whip asking all Congress MPs and MLAs to vote for N. Sanjeeva Reddy. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi openly called for a conscience vote. Finally, independent candidate **V.V. Giri** won the presidential election. The Congress President expelled the Indira Gandhi from the party. By November 1969 congress party split into two as Congress (Organisation) and Congress (Requisitionists). Congress (Organisation) led by K. Kamaraj also known as Old Congress and Congress (Requisitionists) led by Indira Gandhi also known as New Congress. Indira Gandhi projected the split as an ideological divide between socialists and conservatives, between the pro-poor and the pro-rich.

### **OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS**

1. Who was the Prime Minister of India after Nehru? Lal Bahadur Shastri (1964-66)
2. Who coined the famous slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'? Lal Bahadur Shastri
3. Who was the Prime Minister of India after Lal Bahadur Shastri? Indira Gandhi.
4. Name of the socialist leader who gave the name of 'non-Congressism'. Ram Manohar Lohia
5. Which was the political party led anti-Hindi agitation in Tamil Nadu? Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
6. Which was the first non-Congress party secured clear majority of seats in a State legislative assembly? Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)
7. Which was the alliance formed by non-Communist and non-Congress parties in 1971? Grand Alliance
8. In which year Privy purse was abolished in India? 1971 (26<sup>th</sup> Amendment)