

CHAPTER-8 REGIONAL ASPIRATIONS

1. Explain the roots of Kashmir problem.

At the time of independence Jammu and Kashmir was a Princely State. Its Hindu ruler Hari Singh wanted Jammu and Kashmir to remain as an independent kingdom. Pakistan claimed over the Kashmir as a Muslim majority state. National Conference led by Sheikh Abdullah wanted to get rid of the Maharaja, but was against joining Pakistan. In October 1947 Pakistan sent tribal infiltrators to capture Kashmir. This forced the Maharaja Hari Singh sign an 'Instrument of Accession' with the Government of India. India agreed to maintain the autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir. Sheikh Abdullah took over as the Prime Minister of the State of J&K in March 1948.

2. What were the three issues dominating the politics of North-East?

- Demands for autonomy
- Movements for secession
- Opposition to outsiders

3. Explain about the reorganization of the North-East.

Tripura and Manipur were Princely States merged with Indian union after Independence. The entire North-East region except union territories of Manipur and Tripura comprised the State of Assam. Later the non-Assamese felt that the Assam government was imposing Assamese language on them. Leaders of the major tribal communities wanted to separate from Assam. They formed the Eastern India Tribal Union. Later it transformed into All Party Hill Leaders Conference in 1960. They demanded separate state for tribal communities. Nagaland State was created in 1963. Tripura and Manipur were upgraded

into States in 1972. Later Meghalaya (1972), Arunachal Pradesh (1975) and Mizoram (1987) became the states.

4. Explain about the formation of Mizoram as a state.

Mizo Hills area was an autonomous district of Assam. Assam government was failed to respond adequately to the great famine of 1959 in Mizo hills. Besides, Assam Official Language Act (1960) recognized Assamese as an official language of Assam. This led to the formation of the Mizo National Front (MNF) under the leadership of **Laldenga**. They started an armed campaign for independence and adopted guerilla war. In 1986 a peace agreement was signed between **Rajiv Gandhi and Laldenga**. As per this accord Mizoram became a state with special powers in 1987.

5. The Assam movement was a combination of cultural pride and economic backwardness. Explain.

Assam movement was against the migration of outsiders especially the illegal Bengali Muslim from Bangladesh. They feared that it would reduce the indigenous Assamese into a minority. They demanded to deported them. They also felt that natural resources like oil, tea and coal were drained out of the State and that was the reason for the poverty and unemployment in Assam.

6. Explain the circumstances led to 'Assam Accord' in 1985.

In 1979 the **All Assam Students Union (AASU)** led an anti-foreigner movement. The movement was against illegal migrations, domination of Bengalis and other outsiders and faulty voters register. They demanded that all outsiders who had entered the State after 1951 should be sent back. The agitation was supported by all sections of Assamese people. Finally, an agreement was signed between **Rajiv Gandhi** and All Assam Students' Union (AASU) over the issue of 'outsiders' in 1985. This is known as '**Assam Accord**' by which those foreigners who migrated into Assam during and after Bangladesh war were to be identified and deported. Assam accord brought about peace in Assam.

7. How Sikkim merged with India?

Sikkim was a 'protectorate' of India. Sikkim's defense and foreign relations were looked after by India. Internal administration was with the Chogyal-Sikkim's monarch. The first democratic elections to Sikkim Assembly was held in 1974 in which Sikkim Congress won 31 of the 32 seats. Sikkim Congress stood for the integration of Sikkim with India. In April 1975 Sikkim Assembly passed a resolution asking for full integration with India. A referendum was held in 1975 that led to the popular approval of the integration. The Indian Parliament accepted this request. Sikkim became the 22nd State of the Indian union.

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Who was the Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir immediately after its accession with India in 1947?
Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah
2. Which movement led to the formation of Dravidar Kazhagam? Dravidian movement
3. Who was the founder of Dravidar Kazhagam? E.V. Ramasami Naicker.

4. Who started self-respect movement in 1925? E.V. Ramasami Naicker
5. Who is Known as Periyar (the respected)? E.V. Ramasami Naicker.
6. Name of the organization led the movement for the formation of 'Punjabi suba' or Punjabi speaking state. Akali Dal
7. Name of the movement which sought to create an independent Sikh state. Khalistan Movement.
8. Who was the founder of Mizo National Front? Laldenga
9. Who was the leader of the movement for independent Nagaland? Angami Zaphu Phizo
10. Who was the founder of Sikkim National Congress? Kazi Lhendup Dorji
11. In which year Goa became a State of the Indian Union? 1987