

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. Give a brief description of the Gujarat Movement.

Ans. Gujarat had a Congress led government in the State. In January 1974, students in Gujarat started an agitation against rising prices of food grains and other essential commodities and against corruption in the government. The protest of the students was supported by major opposition parties. Due to this, the Indira Gandhi government imposed President's rule in Gujarat. The opposition parties agitated for fresh elections to the state legislature. Morarji Desai announced that he would go on an indefinite fast till the time fresh elections were held in the State. The government due to the pressure from the students and the opposition political parties announced assembly elections in Gujarat. The Congress government was defeated in the State. There were major protest movements within Gujarat after the Emergency. Subsequently, during the 1977 elections after the Emergency, Congress lost many seats within the State.

Q.2. Give a description of the economic conditions during the period 1971-1975.

Ans. India was reeling under an economic downturn after the 1965 War with Pakistan. There had been a shift of developmental expenses to defence expenditure. There had been rising inflation of essential items and slow growth in jobs. The Congress had won the Election under the slogan of garibi hatao (remove poverty). Subsequently, the Bangladesh crisis had put a heavy strain on India's economy. Apart from this, the U.S. government had stopped all aid to India and international price oil had increased quickly during the period. This led to an increase in inflation whereby the prices increased by 23 per cent in 1973 and 30 per cent in 1974. Industrial growth was low that caused unemployment to rise. The government froze the salaries of its employees to decrease its expenditure. The food grain production had declined due to a bad monsoon in 1972-73. These conditions led to the unrest among students and government employees in various parts of India.

Q.3. What are the reasons that led to a mid-term election in 1980?

Ans. The Indira Gandhi led government lost the election in 1977. The Janata Party formed the government under Morarji Desai. The government was a coalition among multiple parties and leaders that have led agitations and protests against the Emergency. There was a conflict in the party due to differing ideological and policy views among the leaders. The Janata Party split and the government that was led by Morarji Desai lost its majority in less than 18 months. Another government headed by Charan Singh was formed on the support of the Congress party but the Congress party later decided to withdraw its support. This caused the Charan Singh government to fall within four months. Therefore, fresh Lok Sabha elections were held in January 1980.

The Janata Party suffered a large defeat while the Congress under Indira Gandhi won the majority of the seats and formed the government.

Q.4. Give any six causes that led to the Emergency being imposed in India.

OR

Analyse the circumstances responsible for the declaration of a state of emergency in India on 25th June, 1975.

[CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. The various causes of the Emergency were:

(i) There was conflict between the Executive and the Judiciary whereby the government wanted the loyalty of Courts to them rather than the constitution.

(ii) The Allahabad High Court had revoked the election of Indira Gandhi whereby she was no longer a Member of Parliament and could not continue as Prime Minister.

(iii) The opposition had begun to conduct mass movements against the government and the mood of the nation was turning against the government. J.P. Narayan had conducted huge protests outside the Indian parliament and there rise in agitation across India such as the railway strike.

(iv) The Indira Gandhi government asserted that it desired to pursue welfare schemes and bring law and order to the nation and for this, the Emergency was implemented.

(v) There has been a rise in inflation and unemployment. There were students' protests in various parts of India such as Bihar and Gujarat.

(vi) Congress had received multiple defeats in State assembly elections across India. The opposition had begun to form alliances and coalitions and gather the support of the people. The government misused the provision of President's rule. This led to conflict between the Centre and States.

OR

Circumstances that led to imposition of emergency:

(i) Clash between the executive (government) and judiciary.

(ii) Rising prices and lower growth rate.

(iii) Railway strike led by Gorge Fernandes.

(iv) A big rally at Ram Lila Maidan and call to the employees including police/ army not to obey the undemocratic orders.

(v) Students' movements in Bihar and Gujarat against price rise and corruption.

(vi) Judgement of Allahabad High Court setting aside the election of Indira Gandhi.