

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. Describe the prevailing scenario for the appointment of Prime Minister after the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Ans. After the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi and Morarji Desai were the two main contenders for the position of Prime Minister. Congress President had proposed name of Indira Gandhi, although Morarji Desai was a more experienced candidate. The leaders of the Syndicate were not in favor of Morarji Desai and considered that Indira Gandhi was naive and therefore can be controlled by them. Indira Gandhi was elected by securing 355 votes while Morarji Desai had secured only 169 votes. Indira Gandhi was appointed as the Prime Minister.

Q.2. What does the term 'syndicate' mean in the context of the Congress party of the sixties? What role did the Syndicate play in the Congress party?

Ans. Syndicate was the term given to a group of powerful leaders in the Congress Party. The group was led by K. Kamraj, S. K. Patil, S. Nijalingappa, N. Sanjeeva Reddy and Atulya Ghosh. Lal Bahadur Shastri and later Indira Gandhi were made Prime Minister with the support received from the Syndicate. This group had a decisive say in Indira Gandhi's first cabinet and in policy formulation and implementation of the government. After the split in Congress, the leaders of the Syndicate stayed with the Congress (O) but were defeated in the subsequent General elections.

Q.3. Explain any two causes of popularity of Indira Gandhi during the 1971 General Election.

Ans. Indira Gandhi conveyed the people that the Opposition had only one program of 'Remove Indira' (Indira Hatao). On the other hand, she had given a positive program in front of the people under the 'Remove Poverty' (Garibi Hatao) slogan. She also pressed upon programs like Public Sector growth, rural landownership, and delimitation of urban property, end of disparity in Income and opportunity and termination of Privy Purse. By giving the "Garibi Hatao" slogan, Indira Gandhi had tried to generate support in communities such as landless farmers, untouchables, tribes, religious minorities, women and unemployed youth.

Q.4. Provide a short introduction of Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Ans. Lal Bahadur Shastri was a freedom fighter and participated in the Indian Independence Movement. He worked as a General Secretary within the INC party and later became a Minister in the Uttar Pradesh Government. Subsequently, he was made a Minister in Nehru's Central Government from 1951 to 1956, though he resigned on moral grounds as the Railway Minister after a railway accident. After Nehru's death, he became India's second Prime Minister in 1964 and led India to victory in the War of

1965 with Pakistan. He also coined the Famous slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisaan'. Lal Bahadur Shastri passed away in 1967 after signing the Tashkent agreement.

Q.5. Provide a short introduction of Indira Gandhi.

Ans. Indira Gandhi was the daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru. She had participated in the Indian Independence Movement as a youth worker within the INC. She was elected as the president of the INC in 1958 and was later appointed as a minister in 1964 in Shastri's Central Government. After the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri, she became the Prime Minister of India and subsequently won the elections in 1967, 1971 and 1980. She has been credited with nationalization of banks, abolition of privy purses and leading India to victory in War of 1971 with Pakistan. Although, she has been criticized for extending the period of 'Emergency' in India. Indira Gandhi was assassinated in October 1984.