

Long Answer Questions

Q.1.Explain any three causes of the split in the Congress Party in 1969.

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Ans. Causes of split in the Congress Party in 1969.

The 1969 Presidential election brought out the rivalry between Syndicate and Congress in open. The post of President fell vacant due to the death of Zakir Hussain. Despite Mrs. Gandhi's reluctance, Congress managed to nominate her opponent and Lok Sabha speaker, N. Sanjeeva Reddy as official candidate of Congress. Indira Gandhi, retaliated by encouraging the then vice-president V.V. Giri to file nomination papers as an independent candidate. She even took step like nationalisation of fourteen leading private banks, abolition of privy purse, etc. Morarji Desai, Deputy Premier left her cabinet due to differences over this issue.

This time, both the groups of Congress were ready for a showdown. Congress President S. Nijalingappa issued a whip asking all Congress MPs and MLAs to vote for N. Sanjeeva Reddy. Indira Gandhi on the other hand appealed for a conscience vote by Congressmen. The election resulted in victory of V.V. Giri independent candidate and defeat of Sanjeeva Reddy, official Congress candidate.

Furious for breaking party discipline, the Congress President Nijalingappa and the Syndicate removed two Indira loyalists from Congress Working Committee (CWC). In retaliation, Indira Gandhi group without approval of CWC requisitioned a meeting of All India Congress Committee (AICC). The AICC meeting of supporters of Indira Gandhi removed Nagalingappa from the post of Congress President. This divided Congress into two groups:

- a. Congress(R) for "Requisitionist" supporting Indira Gandhi.
- b. Congress(O) for "Organisation" led by old syndicates.

Q.2. Describe the work of Lal Bahadur Shastri as the Prime Minister of India.

Ans. Lal Bahadur Shastri became the 2nd Prime Minister of India after the death of Jawaharlal Nehru. His period as the Prime Minister was very short. Apart from challenges like poverty, inequality, communalism and regional divide, he had to overcome economic difficulties after the 1962 War with China and the War of 1965 with Pakistan. There was a severe drought situation and food shortage in the country because of deficient monsoon rain. He gave the slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisaan' to boost morale of the people affected by acute drought and the 1965 War. During India-Pakistan war, he led India to victory against Pakistan and the War came to a halt after the intervention of United Nations. He subsequently signed the Tashkent peace agreement with General Ayub Khan.

Q.3. Describe the Fourth General Election of India of 1967.

Ans. The election occurred at the aftermath of the death of two Prime Ministers within a short interval. The country was going through in severe economic condition as the country was plagued due to deficient monsoon rains, widespread drought, less agriculture production and severe food shortage. The War of 1962 had caused an increase in defense expenditures and thereby leading to development and planning funds being transferred into defense expenditures. The Non-Congress parties formed an alliance under the strategy of Non-Congressism. The Congress got a majority in the Lok Sabha but with its lowest tally of seats since 1952. Many big leaders of the Congress lost the election and the Congress lost election in seven State assemblies and could not form a government in two other States due to defection. This election also bought the strategy of coalition government whereby two or more different parties formed an alliance with others to contest elections or form the government.

Q.4. What is the meaning of Anti-Defection in terms of Indian Politics? Describe any two demerits.

Ans. The change of political loyalty by an elected public representative is known as antidefection. In other words, when an elected public representatives leave their political party and join other party due to personal or political differences, or make a new political party, or vote against parent party without formally leaving the party, then it's known as anti-defection. The following are mainly two demerits of anti-defection:

- a. Opportunistic and Un-ethical politics of anti-defection has helped moving antisocial elements into active Politics. Buying of party, defected elected representatives have increased political corruption.
- b. Political Opportunists have created division in political parties. Center and State Governments became victims of political uncertainty. Political Parties become irresponsible and thereby people have started losing faith on political parties and their leaders.

Q.5. Write an article on the 1971 election and re-establishment of the Congress Party.

Ans. The election was a contest among Congress (R) and Congress(O) and Grand alliance of Opposition parties. Indira Gandhi gave slogan of "Garibi Hatao" and also made Public Sector growth, Rural Landownership, Delimitation of urban property, end of disparity in income and opportunity, and termination of Privy Purse as election agenda. She also tried to muster support of oppressed classes, tribes, minority, women and unemployed youth. Congress alliance has secured 375 seats with 48.4% votes. Congress(O) could secure only 66 and Grand Alliance of opposition could win less than 40 seats. Indira Gandhi reinstituted the Congress party working system. The old Congress party was not revived by such changes. This party was built by Indira Gandhi by her own way. This party was dependent on popularity of their leader but party

organization was very weak. This party was dependent on social communities like poor women, untouchable obsessed, tribes and minority.