

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. Describe the steps taken for conducting first general elections in India. To what extent these elections were successful?

[CBSE Delhi 2014]

Ans. India was going through highly unstable circumstances at the time of independence. On one hand, there was partition tragedy and on the other, there was problem of refugee resettlement, creation of employment and eradication of poverty. In such circumstances, it was very challenging to establish democracy. Despite all the hardships, country's leadership chose the path of democracy. On 26th January, 1950, the Constitution of India was brought into force. Prior to that, administration of country was controlled by Interim Government but after the enforcement of constitution, it was necessary to run the country by constitutionally elected government. For this reason, in January 1950, Election Commission of India was setup and Sukumar Sen was appointed as the Election Commissioner. The results of the first general election did not surprise anyone. The Indian National Congress was expected to win this election. The Congress party had inherited the legacy of the national movement. Jawaharlal Nehru, the charismatic leader in Indian politics. He led the Congress campaign and toured through the country.

Q.2. Write a short note on the emergence, evolution and ideology of the Communist Party of India.

Ans. The Communist Party emerged in 1920 in different parts of India. It took inspiration from the Bolshevik revolution in Russia. It supported socialism. The Communist Party was primarily modern, secular and also authoritarian. The party also wanted radical nature of Congress but went through violence to achieve its aims. After independence, the party thought that the transfer of power in 1947 was not true independence and encouraged violent uprisings in Telangana. The communists failed to generate popular support for their position and were crushed by the armed forces. This forced them to rethink their position. In 1951 the Communist Party abandoned the path of violent revolution and decided to participate in the approaching general elections. The principles of the party were as follows:

- a. It worked for proportional representation in the government.
- b. This party followed communist ideology in various policies.
- c. It emphasised on a control over electronic mass media by an autonomous body or corporation.

The important leaders of CPI were A.K. Gopalan, S.A. Dange, E.M.S. Namboodiripad, P.C. Joshi, Ajay Ghosh etc.

Q.3. Write a short note on the origin and aims of the Socialist Party.

Ans. The founder President of the Congress Socialist Party was Acharya Narendra Dev and after 1955, it came to be known as 'Socialist Party'. They believed in the ideology of democratic socialism to be distinguished from Congress and Communist both. It criticised Congress for ignoring the workers and peasants. It became difficult for socialist party to prove itself as an effective alternative to Congress because Congress Party declared its goal to be socialist pattern of society in 1955. Some of its leaders were Ram Manohar Lohia, Ashok Mehta, Jayaprakash Narayan, etc.

Q.4. Describe the role of E.V. Ramaswami 'Periyar' in the Dravid Movement and the formation of Dravida Kazhagam (DK). Why did the DK get split and enter into politics as DMK?

[CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. The Dravidian movement led to the formation of Dravida Kazhagam(DK) under the leadership of Tamil social reformer E.V Ramaswami 'Periyar'. The organization strongly opposed the Brahmins' dominance and affirmed regional pride against the political, economic and cultural domination of the north. Initially, the Dravidian Movement spoke in terms of the whole of South India.

The DK split and the political legacy of the movement was transferred to Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(DMK) due to the following:

- (i) It demanded the restoration of the original name of Kallakudi railway station, which had been renamed Dalmiapuram after an industrial house from the north.
- (ii) Secondly, agitation was for giving Tamil cultural history greater importance in the school curriculum.
- (iii) The third agitation was against the craft education scheme of the state government, which it alleged was linked to the Brahmanical social outlook.

Q.5. What were the reasons for dominance of one-party system in India?

Ans. The dominance of Congress in India was due to the following reasons:

- a. Congress was identified with the freedom struggle for building national unity and solidarity.
- b. Congress was associated with Mahatma Gandhi's name.
- c. It had a broad based manifesto to include the various section of the society.
- d. Congress bore a popular appeal of charismatic leader like Mahatma Gandhi, J.L.Nehru, Sardar Patel, Indira Gandhi, etc.
- e. Congress focused on building role of the Party.

Q.6. How has the method of voting changed from the first General Election of 1952 to the General Election of 2004?

Ans. In the first General Election, a box was placed inside each polling booth for each candidate with the election symbol of the Candidate. Each voter was given a blank ballot paper to drop into the box, they wanted to vote for. After the first two elections, this method was changed. Now ballot paper carried the names and symbols of the candidates and the voter had to stamp on the name of the candidate they wanted to vote for. Whereas in 2004, Electronic Voting Machine was introduced, where the voter had to press the button according to the choice of the voter containing the name of candidate and symbol of political party.