

Lecture no 10

**THE ATTEMPTS OF HINDU MUSLIM
UNITY (1916-27)**

I

**LUCKNOW PACT (1916)
(League-Congress Agreement)**

Background

1. From 1906-11 Muslim politics remain quiet until the annulment of partition of Bengal in 1911.
2. Annulment of Partition of Bengal (1911) and Disturbances in Anglo-Muslim Equation.
3. Balkan Wars (1912-13) and Rise of Anti-British Sentiments in Muslims of South Asia.
4. In 1913 Muslim League in its session losing faith in British Pledge proclaimed a form of self government suitable of India for the protection of Muslim interest.
5. Same year Jinnah joined Muslim League, World War I began in 1914.

LUCKNOW PACT / CONGRESS-LEAGUE PACT(1916) Introduction

- **Lucknow Pact**, (December 1916), agreement made by the Indian National Congress headed by Maratha leader Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the All-India Muslim League led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah;
- it was adopted by the Congress at its Lucknow session on December 29 and by the league on Dec. 31, 1916.
- The pact dealt both with the structure of the government of India and with the relation of the Hindu and Muslim communities.

Features of Lucknow Pact (1916)

SOLUTION OF HINDU-MUSLIM POLITICAL ISSUES:

- The congress party agreed to the right to separate electorate for the Muslims first and last time in the history of subcontinent.
- The Congress conceded that the Muslims would have one third representation in the imperial legislative council.
- A weightage formula was proposed under which the Muslims would get less representation than their population in the legislative council in those provinces where they were in majority but more in provinces where they were in minority. Now the Muslim strength in the different provinces shall be as: Punjab 50%, Bengal 40%, U.P 30%, Bihar 25%, C.P 15%, Madras 15% and Bombay 33 %.
- No bill, nor any clause thereof, nor a resolution introduced by a non-official member effecting one or other community shall be presented in the assembly without approval of the concern group.

Features of Lucknow Pact (1916)

PROVINCIAL PART:

- The provincial legislative council will have four fifth as elected members and one fifth as nominated members.
- The members would be elected by the people directly for the term of five years.
- In the major provinces the strength of the legislative councils would be 125 and in the minor provinces the strength would be 50 and 75.
- Provincial autonomy will be given to the province with maximum powers vested with the provincial council.
- The provincial council will have authorized to impose taxes, raise loans, and to vote on budget.
- All proposals for raising revenues shall have to be submitted to the provincial council for sanction.

Features of Lucknow Pact (1916)

- There shall be an executive council in the province headed by the governor whose half of the member's shall Indian national elected by the elected members of the legislative council their term of office shall be five year.
- The members of the assemblies shall have the right to present adjournment motion.
- Protection shall be given to the Hindus in Muslim majority provinces.

Features of Lucknow Pact (1916)

CENTRAL PART:

- In the centre there shall be an imperial legislative council consisting of 150 members.
- Four fifth of the members shall be elected for a term of five years on the basis of direct election.
- The Muslims shall be given $\frac{1}{3}$ seats of the elected members and they will be elected by separate Muslim electorates.
- The central Government will be headed by the Governor General, who would be assisted by an executive council. Half of the members of the executive council shall be Indians elected by the elected members of the imperial legislative council.

Importance of Lucknow Pact (1916)

- The Lucknow pact was a great achievement of Hindu and Muslim leaders, who were successful in offering for the first and the only time, a mutually acceptable solution of the Hindu Muslim problem.
- It was the Quaid-e-Azam, who had always been a staunch supporter of Hindu-Muslim unity.
- The scheme provided for a substantial step taken halfway towards the establishment of self-rule in India which was main core of the jointly sponsored scheme of Lucknow pact.
- The Congress first time accepted the demand of separate electorate for Muslims. The pact ensured the protection of political rights of Muslims.
- Muslim league separate status was also being accepted.
- Through the pact the both parties were able to put a joint demand before the British.

Importance of Lucknow Pact (1916)

- Congress got strength in term of political and masses because it had got All India Muslim League Supports.
- It was basically give and take sort of agreement between the both parties. The Muslims had to pay a big price of loosing majority in Bengal and Punjab to obtain some concessions. Similarly, it carried great constitutional significance in the future for many developments.
- The scheme of representation of Muslim community in the central and provincial legislatures as embodied in the Lucknow pact was generally followed in the Montague Chelmsford reforms.

Conclusion

- The agreement was very outstanding and its dreams were fulfilled the whole political scenario of Indian subcontinent were different.
- But, it was impossible to the parties to make a united India.
- The Hindus and Muslims are two different nation and they have different culture and civilization. Therefore the Lucknow Pact failed to make a long lasting cooperation in India among the Muslims and Hindus.