



## TEXT BOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

Question 1. Why were people dissatisfied with British rule in the 1870s and 1880s?

Answer: People were dissatisfied with British rule in the 1870s and 1880s due to the following reasons:

- (i) The British passed the Arms Act in 1878 which disallowed Indians from possessing arms.
- (ii) In the same year they passed the Vernacular Press Act. This Act snatched the freedom of speech and expression. It allowed the government to confiscate the assets of newspapers including their printing presses if the newspapers published anything that was critical of the government.
- (iii) In 1883, the Ilbert Bill was introduced. The bill provided for the trial of British or European persons by Indians and sought equality between British and Indian judges in the country. But the white opposition forced the government to withdraw the bill.

Question 2. Who did the Indian National Congress wish to speak for?

Answer: The Indian National Congress wished to speak for the entire people belonging to different communities of India.

Question 3. What economic impact did the First World War have on India?

Answer: The First World War led to a huge rise in the defence expenditure of the Government of India. The government in turn increased taxes on individual incomes and business profits. Increased military expenditure and the demands for war supplies led to the sharp rise in prices which badly affected the common mass. They found it difficult to fulfil even their essential needs. But the business groups earned huge profits from the war. The war created a demand for industrial goods like jute bags, cloth, rails, and caused a decline of imports from other countries into India. As a result Indian industries expanded during the war.

Question 4. What did the Muslim League resolution of 1940 ask for?

Answer: The Muslim League resolution of 1940 asked for "Independent States" for Muslims in the north-western and eastern areas of the country. The resolution did not mention partition or the name Pakistan.

Question 5. Who were the Moderates? How did they propose to struggle against British rule?

Answer: The Moderates were against taking extreme actions. They had deep faith in the good intention of the government. They were of the opinion that slowly and steadily they would make the British go to their own land. The Moderate leaders developed public awareness about the unjust nature of British rule. They published newspapers, wrote articles and showed how British rule was leading to the economic ruin of the country. They criticised British rule in their speeches and sent representatives to different parts of the

country to mobilise public opinion. They believed that the British had respect for the ideals of freedom and justice and therefore they would definitely accept all the just demands of the people of India. Their main task was to acknowledge the British government with these demands.

Question 6. How was the politics of the Radicals within the Congress different from that of the Moderates?

Answer: The Radicals within the Congress cherished different opinions. They had deep faith in action and wanted to drive away the foreigners as soon as possible. They criticised the Moderates for their “politics of prayers” and gave emphasis on self-reliance and constructive work. They argued that people must fight for swaraj. Unless they fought against the British rule unitedly, they would not bring independence to their country.

Question 7. Discuss the various forms of the Non-Cooperation Movement took in different parts of India. How did the people understand Gandhiji?

Answer: The Non-Cooperation Movement spread far and wide. It took various forms in different parts of the country:

(i) In Kheda, Gujarat, Patidar peasants were worried about the high land revenue demand of the British. Hence, they organised non-violent campaigns against it.

(ii) In coastal Andhra and interior Tamil Nadu, liquor shops were picketed.

(iii) In the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, tribals and poor peasants started several forest satyagrahas, sometimes sending their cattle into forests without paying grazing tax. They were very much fed up with the restrictions imposed on them by the British regarding the use of forest resources. They wanted the abolition of the forest regulations.

(iv) In Sind, now in Pakistan, Muslim traders and peasants were very enthusiastic about the Khilafat call. In Bengal too, the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation alliance gave enormous communal unity and strength to the national movement.

(v) In Punjab, the Akali agitation of the Sikhs sought to drive out corrupt mahants, supported by the British, from the gurudwaras. This movement got closely identified with the Non-Cooperation Movement.

(vi) In Assam, tea garden labourers left the British-owned plantations and became the followers of Gandhiji. People viewed Gandhiji as a messiah, as someone who could help them overcome their misery and poverty.

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