



Short Answer Type Questions [4 Marks]

1. Explain any two reasons for the popularity of Indira Gandhi during 1971 elections.

Or

Analyse any three factors which enhanced popularity of Indira Gandhi in the early 1970s.

Answer: Because:

1. Indira Gandhi campaigned to implement land reforms legislations and land ceiling legislation during elections.
2. She ended her dependence on other political parties by strengthening her party's position and recommended the dissolution of Lok Sabha in December 1970.
3. The crisis in East Pakistan and Indo- Pak war to establish Bangladesh as an independent one, also enhanced the popularity of Indira Gandhi.

2. What does 'defection' stand for in Indian politics? Highlight any two demerits of this practice?

Answer: Defection refers to an elected representative leaves the party on whose symbol he/she is elected and joins another party. This culture developed in Indian Politics after 1967 elections.

Its two demerits were as follows:

1. It played an important role in making and unmaking of government frequently.
2. The constant realignments and shifting political loyalties in this period gave rise to the expression "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram".

3. Why was the year 1967 considered a landmark year in India's political and electoral history? Explain.

Answer: The fourth general election was held in 1967 for the first time without Nehru:

1. The election verdict was not in favour of Congress and results jolted the Congress both at the national and state levels.
2. Half the ministers in Indira Gandhi's cabinet were defeated including K. Kamraj in Tamilnadu, S.K. Patil in Maharashtra, Atulya Ghosh in West Bengal, K.B. Sahay in Bihar.
3. Congress did not lose majority in seven states only but two other states also prevented it to form government due to defections.
4. For the first time any non-Congress party secured majority in any state and in other eight states different non-Congress parties formed the coalitions.

4. These election results were called as a 'Political Earthquake'.

How can we see re-emergence of Indira Gandhi to power in 1971?

Answer: Congress (R) under Indira Gandhi had an issue, an agenda and a positive slogan which was lacked by its opponents. The 'Grand Alliance' had only one common programme 'Indira Hatao':

1. In contrast to this, Indira Gandhi put forward a positive slogan 'Garibi Hatao'.
2. By this, she generated a support base among poor, minorities, landless labourers, dalit, women and unemployed youth.
3. Except it, she focused on the growth of public sector, imposition of ceiling on rural land holdings and urban property, removal of disparity etc.
4. Thus, the slogan of Garibi Hatao and programmes became the part of Indira Gandhi's political strategy of building an independent

nationwide political support base during the electoral contest of 1971.

5. What is meant by 'Privy Purses'? Why did Indira Gandhi insist on abolishing them in 1970?

Answer: 'Privy Purses' was the form of grant in hereditary given to the rulers and their families:

1. The grant or 'Privy Purse' was measured on the basis of extent revenue and potential of the merging state in the assurance given at the time of integration of princely states.
2. Privy purses were criticised, the privileges given to princely states at the time of accession, integration and consolidation were protested.
3. Hence, some leaders like Indira Gandhi insisted on abolishing the privy purses because hereditary privileges were not constant with the principle of equality, social and economic justice laid down in the constitution.
4. Hence in the elections of 1971, Indira Gandhi made this a major election issue and got a lot of public support and alongwith massive victory in 1971 election, the constitution was amended to remove legal obstacles for abolition of privy purses.

6. How did the outcome of 1971 elections help in restoration of Congress?

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7. Write a short note on:

- (a) Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan
- (b) Garibi Hatao
- (c) Indira Hatao
- (d) Grand Alliance

Answer:

- (a) Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan
 - (i) A slogan given by Lai Bahadur Shastri in 1965.
 - (ii) To symbolise to resolve country's challenge of food crisis and external threat.
- (b) Garibi Hatao
 - (i) A slogan given by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1970 to symbolise removal of poverty.
 - (ii) Through this slogan, Indira Gandhi generated a support base among women, unemployed youth, minorities, landless labourers, dalits, etc.
- (c) Indira Hatao

A slogan given by Grand Alliance alongwith one programme of 'Indira Hatao' only i.e. remove Indira Gandhi from Political arena.
- (d) Grand Alliance
 - (i) An alliance formed by non-communist and non-Congress parties to be formed against Congress (R).
 - (ii) It did not focus on multiple strategies of development rather included only 'Indira Hatao'.

