**Cabinet Mission Plan 1946**

**Write down a comprehensive note on Cabinet Mission Plan 1946.**

The World War-Il was over. In the general elections war hero of the conservative party, Mr. Churchill was defeated and Mr. Attlee succeeded him as Prime Minister. The victorious Labour Party had made a commitment, in its manifesto, to settle the future of the sub-continent. He sent a high powered Mission to India to bring round all the political parties to an amicable formula for the freedom.

**Members of the Cabinet Missions**

The Mission consists of.

1. Sir Stafford Cripps

2. E.V. Alexander

3. Sir Pathick Lawrence

**Dialogue with Parties**

The members of the Mission had separate meetings with the major leaders of the political parties. They also tried to know the points of view of the Governors and Chief Ministers of different provinces. Governor General was also taken into confidence. Both the major political parties were very much clear about their opinions. The Muslim League was emphasizing that partition and creation of Pakistan was the only solution of all political problems. The Indian National Congress vehemently opposed it. It could never accept a formula based on the division of the sub-continent into two or more than two independent states. Congress out-rightly rejected the demand for Pakistan and the two Nation Theory on which the Muslims‟ stand was based upon.

Tension arose during the discussions. The Prime Minister, before sending the Mission, declared in the Parliament that no minority would be given veto power; and the hindering of the political process by any party would not be tolerated. The Quaid-e-Azam vehemently criticized the statement hut Congress expressed its pleasure. The Quaid categorically stated that the Muslim League was performing the duty of protecting the rights of the Muslims. He further explained that Muslim League was trying to resolve the problems on the basis of Two Nation Theory. During his meeting with the members of the Mission, the Quaid made it clear that the sub-continent was neither a country nor inhabited one nation. The Muslims have a separate identity and, they have every right to determine their future course as a separate nation.

**Cabinet Mission Proposals**

Cabinet Mission presented the following proposals before the political parties:

**i. Indian Union**

The sub-continent vil1 be given the status of a union. The union will consist of man\ provinces and princely states. The system will be federal. The centre will deal with Defence, Foreign Affairs and Communications. All other departments will be handed over to the provinces. All taxes will be levied by the centre.

**ii. Groups of Provinces**

The provinces will be grouped as under:

Group A: Bombay, Madras, U.P. Urisas and C.P, Bihar

Group B: Punjab, Sindh and NWFP

Group C: Bengal and Assam

Nature of the federation was unique in which three tiers were to exist, centre, group of provinces and province. Three different organizations at all these three levels would be formed. One point was quite strange that the powers of central and provincial organizations were specifically mentioned in the Cabinet Mission Plan but the powers of Group of Provinces were not defined. This matter was left to the provincial and group organizations to solve them.

The provinces will get representation in the Federal Assembly and Federal Cabinet as per their respective population.

**iii. Constituent Assembly**

The members of all provincial assemblies will the Constituent Assembly. The Constituent Assembly will formulate a constitution for the whole sub-continent. After that three provincial groups will frame their respective constitutions.

**iv. Interim Government**

The Interim government will immediately he installed and it will run the system of government till the formation of the constitution. The representatives of major political parties will be included in the interim government. No Britisher will be the minister. The cabinet will be powerful in administrative matters.

**v. Separation from the Group**

If a province likes, it will be authorized to quit the group to which it is being attached. Such a province would be free to join any other group of choice.

**vi. Separation from Indian Union**

One or two groups of provinces will be authorized to quit the Indian Union after ten years. It means that group B or C or both will be able to maintain their sovereignty. The two groups were of Muslim majority provinces.

**vii. Veto Power**

The option to reject the Cabinet Mission Plan was given to every political party but that party would not be able to join the interim government. The right to join the interim government was given only to the parties who supported the plan. Congress was pleased to see, this condition as the Muslim League „was not allowed to veto the Plan. In case it vetoes, it would be kept away from the government.

**REACTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

**Indian national congress**

The immediate reaction of Indian National Congress was extremely positive. The party leaders welcomed it. The Hindu journalists expressed their satisfaction and congratulated one another. The plan was a defeat of the Muslim League.

**All Indian Muslim Leagues**

The party workers were totally disappointed from the Cabinet Mission Plan. They considered the plan a victory of their Opponents of Pakistan. They felt that the idea of Pakistan was totally ignored and the demand of the Muslim League was rejected.

The Quaid-e said, “I am sorry to see that the demand for Pakistan has been ignored by the Mission Plan. We still believe and say with full confidence that the solution of political problems lies in the creation of two Independent sovereign states.”

**Gandhi**

Gandhi in his press statement talked about the supremacy of the Parliament and expressed his opinion that Parliament would be empowered to bring changes in the system, introduced by the government on the basis of the Cabinet Mission Plan. It means that Hindu majority in the Parliament would dictate its terms. The safeguard provided by the Cabinet Mission to the Muslims could be withdrawn by the Hindu majority Parliament. The statement of Gandhi further aggravated the frustration of the Muslim nation.

**Final Decision**

The first reaction of the two political parties was totally different. It looked clear that Congress was going to give its consent and the decision of the Muslim League would be contrary to it. The matter was widely discussed in the general councils of both the parties. The council of Muslim League gave full mandate to the Quaid-e-Azam to declare the policy. He, contrary to the expectation of all the political circles, declared to accept the plan and Congress was put to an embarrassing situation. The Quaid declared the he accepted the plan with the idea that the demand for the creation of Pakistan would be in a position to establish their own independent sovereign state comprising of Assam, Britishers were about to leave the sub-continent, and could play havoc with the Muslim nation.

The Quaid-e-Azam exchanged views with his party leaders and then discussed the forthcoming problems of the Muslims with the Viceroy. On his repeated requests, the Quaid-e-Azam honored his invitation and joined the government. Pundit Nehru had also appealed to the Muslim League but the Quaid-e-Azam gave the whole credit to the Viceroy.