**PAKISTAN MOVEMENT**

**Write the note on the Partition of the Bengal.**

Ans. Lord Cur became the Viceroy of India in 1899. He was an able and efficient administrator. He undertook an extensive tour of the province of Bengal and felt that the province was too big to be administrated effectively. The provincial Governors had already complained about the administrative difficulties faced by them in the large province. They had recommended the partition of the province in view of its size and big population.

**Reasons of Partition of the Bengal**

There were a lot of reasons behind the partition of the Bengal in 1905. Some of them are as under:-

**1. Large Population of Bengal:**

According to the census of 1901 the population consisted of seven crore eighty lacs individuals. According to the area and population ratios its division into two parts was unavoidable.

**2. Large Area of Bengal:**

According to the census of 1901 the area of Bengal province was one lac eighty nine thousand square miles that’s why partition of Bengal was necessary.

**3. Destruction of Chittagong Sea Port:**

Due to the availability of a sea port in West Bengal in Calcutta no thought was given to improve and develop the seaport in East Bengal at Chittagong. The division of Bengal was necessary to save it from destruction.

**4. Problem of Language:**

The area of Arisa where language, Aryaya Arya was spoken divided into three provinces Bengal, Assam and U.P. The people and government had to face a lot of problems due to this. The concerned provincial governments had to do official formalities in provincial as well as Arya Language. The people also could not remain separated. Therefore it was necessary to include, Arisa in any one province.

**5. Destruction of Industry and Skill:**

Even thought jute was produced in large scale East Bengal was not given any importance in the field industry, because of which the local industries had collapsed and people were in bad conditions.

**6. Economic Backwardness:**

The area of the West Bengal was totally ignored by the different government, so the surrounded areas of Calcutta were economically backward.

**Events of the Partition of Bengal:**

A number of partition proposals were viewed and discussed which, however, could not materialize. Lord Curzon decided to divide the province into two provinces. He prepared a comprehensive plan of the partition of Bengal in 1905 and sent it to England for approval. The British Crown gave approval to the partition plan and the province of Bengal was divided into two parts on 16th October, 1905 named as Western Bengal and Eastern Bengal.

**1. Province of East Bengal**

The area of East Bengal and Assam province was one lac six thousand five hundred and forty square miles and total population was three crore ten lacs. The Muslim population in this was one crore eighty lacs. The province included Assam, Silhit, East and North Bengal meaning Chittagong Dhaka, Commissionaires of Rajshahi and Maldah division. The centre of the new province was Dhaka and the seaport was Chittagong.

**2. Province of West Bengal**

Besides the area of East Bengal and Assam other parts of Bengal were included in West Bengal. The area of Orissa was also included in it the area of West Bengal was one lac, forty one thousand five hundred and eighty square miles and its population was five crore, forty lacs. Muslim population was only ninety thousand. The centre of the province remained Calcutta. The trade seaport remained Calcutta.

**MUSLIM RE-ACTION TO THE PARTITION**

The new province of Eastern Bengal brought happier prospects of political and economic life for the Muslims. The Muslims overnight turned into majority by the creation of the new province. The Muslims were 18 million out of the total population of 31 million in the new province. The partition of Bengal .provided chances of great progress to the Muslims who formed the majority group in the new set up. In the combined province of Bengal the Muslims were a suppressed and dominated class of society. The Hindus had monopolized trade and Government services which aggravated the economic condition of the Muslims. The partition of Bengal provided them with a chance to rehabilitate their social position. They hoped that their social status would get a tremendous boost in the new province. The Muslims, therefore, expressed their utmost happiness over the partition of Bengal. They offered their gratification in a loyal way to Government for taking a step for their social, economic and political uplift.

**HINDU RE-ACTION TOWARD PARTITION**

The Hindus reacted toward the partition of Bengal in a hostile and violent m The Hindus could never support a move which was to bring prosperity and happiness to the Muslims. The reasons for Hindu opposition to the partition were as follows:

**1.** The Hindus believed that they would come under the domination of the Muslim majority in the new province and their superior position „would be downgraded to the inferior status.

**2.** As the provincial High Court and other judicial bodies were to be shifted to Dacca, he Hindu lawyers feared that their legal practice would be affected.

**3.** Since Dacca was to become the centre of journalistic and other academic I activities, the Hindu Press and media believed that from now onward the Muslim point of view would be projected in the newspapers and magazines. They also feared that their income would seriously be lessened. The Hindu landlords, capitalists and traders did not like the partition as it was to put an end to their exploitation of the poor Muslims.

**4.** Before the partition of Bengal the Hindus enjoyed dominant position in the political sphere of the province over the Muslims. The new set up was to put an end to their superior political position and their political dominance over the Muslims will end.

The Hindu agitation soon turned into a violent reaction. The people disobeyed government orders by refusing to pay taxes and rentals. Communal clashes erupted at a. number of places which aggravated the law and order situation in the country. Bombs were thrown and attacks were made on the lives of the British people. Swadeshi movement was organized by which the foreign goods were boycotted. The train carrying the Governor of the Eastern Bengal was derailed and an attempt was made on Viceroy’s life which failed.