**Simla conference**

**Write a note on Simla conference.**

The Viceroy, Lord Wavell, to have a dialogue with the major political parties in 1945, called Simla conference. The following politicians were invited to participate in the Conference at Simla, a summer resort, and capital of the Federal government in the summer season. Congress: Pandit Nehru, Beldev Singh and Azad Muslim League: Quaid-e-Azam, Liaquat Ali Khan and Abdu Rub Nishter Chief Ministers: All provinces Unionist and other parties‟ representatives **Background:**

The Indian National Congress kept on pressurizing the British government to quit India. The failure of Cripps Mission encouraged the Congress leaders. Gandhi was not prepared to tolerate British Raj anymore. His “Quit India Movement‟ gained momentum. Gandhi wanted immediate transfer of power to the majority party. He tried to blackmail the government, and gave the boycott call to the workers. Civil disobedience Movement, Quit India Movement, Swedeshi Movement and other methods were used to force the British to quit India. Processions and protest meetings were arranged in all the cities. Gandhi and his party was expecting the defeat of the Allied Forces at the hands of the Japanese, therefore, the Hindus continuously built up the pressure against the government. In all such activities the All India Muslim League was ignored.

So the Viceroy gave his plain in the Simla Conference.

**Wavell Plan:**

The Vicroy of India Lord Wavell chalked out a plan to settle the political issues with political parties to introduce a frame work order, under which the elections to federal and provincial legislative assemblies could be conducted for the formation of future government. The plan was a s under:- The future constitution will be framed with the consent of all major political parties.

An Executive Council will be made and representatives of all major political parties will be included in the Council. The council will consist of six Hindus, five Muslims and one British. The Vicroy will preside over the meetings of the Executive Council. The Commander-in-Chief will be ax-officio member of the Executive Council. All the members of the Council will be nominated by the Viceroy.

Provincial Executive Councils will also be organized. Governor of the province will be the Chief of the Council, in each province.

**Failure of the conference:**

The conference had to decide the political infrastructure, the formation of assemblies and governments at central as well as provincial level. The move was encouraging for Congress. What so ever was the situation, the Congress was going to form the government on the basis of its majority. Congress joined the conference proceedings with high hopes. It had also declared before holding a conference that it would not accept partition in any case.

The meeting started to discuss the first point on agenda. The point related to the nomination of five Muslim ministers of the Vicroy‟s executive Council. The Quaid-e-Azam vehemently argued that all the five would be nominate don the recommendations of All India Muslim League. No other party had a right to send even a sin member. The Vicroy and Indian National Congress wished to nominate Maulana Azad as, Muslim minister. The Quaid did not agree to this proposal. Now Vicroy asked the Quaid to accept Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana, the leader of Unionist party. The Quaid-e-Azam rejected this name as well and insisted that all the five ministries should be given to All India Muslim League. The very first point created a fuss and further discussion was futile, therefore, the Simla Conference failed in getting any objective. **Responsibility for Failure:**

The Indian National Congress held the Quaid-e-Azam responsible for the failure. Lord Wavell also critized the inflexible attitude of the Quaid-e-Azam. Quaid-e-Azam refuted the blame and disclosed the trap prepared by Lord Wavell and Gandhi to entrap the Mus1ir It was their joint venture. Had Muslim league accepted the plan, it would never have a separate state in the shape of Pakistan.

**Conclusion**

Simla Conference was a step to make a possible understanding between the British Govt. and the Indian Political Leaders but the formula of the nomination of Muslim members unwrapped the mentality of lord Wavel and Congress. It was the foresight of the Quaid-e-Azam that rescued the Muslims. On the whole, the Wavel Plan was a symbol of weakness of the British Rulers.