**Functioning of Congress Governments under the Government of India Act 1935**

Congress had formed its ministries in eight provinces. The Muslims living in these provinces under congress rule were subjected to most inhuman treatment and made to bear the oppressive and tyrannical rule of the Congress for two and a half years. Congress adopted every means to completely obliterate the Muslim population of the provinces under its rule.

Congress had adopted an unconstitutional method to rule the provinces and its administration did not conform to the parliamentary system as laid down in the Act of 1935. The Congress ministries were not accountable to the Parliament. They received all instructions from the Congress high command and were answerable to it for all matters. The Congress High command made and removed the ministers. A parliamentary subcommittee was set up by Congress to deal with the work of legislatures in all provinces.

This committee was to guide and advise the legislatures in their functions. It consisted of Mau Abu-al-Kalam Azad, Rajendra Prasad and Sardar Vallabhai Patel. The provinces were distributed amongst the three members of the committee, Maulana and were given the charge of Bengal, United Provinces, the Punjab and the N.W.F.P. Rajendra Prasad got Bihar Orrissa and Assam. Vailabhai Patel was allotted Bombay, Madras, the Central Provinces and Sindh. This sub-committee was given enormous authority to deal with all matters in the Congress ruled provinces. The Congress regime was an absolutist rule and was in fact an oligarchy dominated by Mr. Gandhi.

With the installation of Congress ministries the Hindus came out to impose Hindu nationalism on the Muslims. Congress began its rule by imposing its will on the Muslim minorities in the provinces under its rule. The Muslims were forbidden to eat beef. Severe punishments were awarded to those who slaughtered the Mother Cow. Every effort was made to humble and humiliate Is the religion of Muslims. A systematic policy was framed by the Congress to erase Muslim culture. Hindi was enforced as the official language in all the provinces under the Congress rule. Azan was forbidden and organized attacks were made on Muslim worshippers busy in the mosques. Noisy processions were organized to pass near the mosques at prayer times. If a Muslim had to kill a cow for sacrifice, hundreds of Muslims including their children and women were to be killed as a reprisal. Pigs were pushed into the mosques and Azan was frequently interrupted.

Hindu-Muslim riots were maneuvered in various places to make a pretext for severe action against the Muslims. The Muslims were openly and freely mauled and molested. The government agencies offered no protection to the Muslims who tell a prey to Hindu domination and high-handedness. If the Muslims lodged complaints with the authorities the decisions were always against the Muslims.

**1. Bande Matram**

Bande Matram was a song in which degrading verses were used against Muslims and their religion Islam. The song was written by a Bengali novelist Bankim Chatterjee in his novel Anadamath and urged all the non-Muslims to wage war against the Muslims in order to expel them from Hindustan which meant for the Hindus only. In order to strengthen the Hindu nationalism, the Congress members in the Assemblies, under the instructions from the Congress High Command, insisted on commencing the day‟s beginnings by the recitation of the song Bande Matram. Bande Matram was also adopted as a national anthem and was to be recited before the start of official business every day.

**2. Wardha Scheme**

The Wardha Scheme was the outcome of Gandhi‟s philosophy. It preached Hindu nationalism and principles of non-violence. It aimed to develop a high respect among the young minds about the Hindu heroes and religious leaders. .The Wardha and Widdia Mander schemes sought to isolate the young generation of the Muslims from their religion, culture and civilization. The Muslims, therefore, rightly feared that the education policies introduced under these schemes, were completely segregated from their religion, tradition and culture and would subvert all what they (Muslims) loved so much. The main objective of these schemes was to destroy the Muslim culture and secure perpetual domination of Hindu culture. It aimed at injecting the political ideas of one political party, the Congress, into the minds of the Muslim children. It completely ignored religion and favoured Hindi at the cost of Urdu;

**3. Hoisting of Three-Coloured flag**

Congress, after taking over the government in the provinces, immediately ordered the hoisting of three-coloured flag with the British Union Jack to prove that there were only two powers in Ii which were the British and the Congress.

**4. Widdja Mander Scheme**

Another attempt was made to erase the Muslim culture by introducing a new educational system. The education policy was known as Widdia Mander Scheme and meant to convert the non-Hindus to Hinduism. It was introduced in all schools, colleges and educational institutions. Under this scheme the students were asked to pay respect and homage to Gandhi’s picture every day in their assemblies in the schools. The students were asked to bow before Gandhi’s picture and sing hymns in his praise. Dr. Zakir Husain, a Congress Muslim, was the author of this scheme.

**5. Hindu-Muslim Riots**

Hindu-Muslim riots were usual during the Congress rule. Organized attempts were made on the honour property and lives of the Muslims by indulging in the communal and religious feuds. The Hindus were free to assault the innocent Muslims in any area. The Muslim houses and property were set on fire and their women and children abducted. Muslim massacre and plundering of their localities were the scenes of the day.

**6. Muslim Mass Contact Campaign**

Congress started a Muslim mass contact campaign. The main objective of this campaign was to damage the popularity of Muslim League amongst the Muslims. It was Nehru‟s imagination to destroy the image of Muslim League as the only representative party of the Muslims. The campaign began by directly contacting the Muslim masses with a view to win them over to the Congress.