**NEHRU REPORT 1928**

**Background:**

After the failure of Simon Commission in 1927 the Minister for India Lord Berkenhead challenged the Indians by saying: If they have any political capability and competence then they should form a unanimous constitution and present it to us and we will implement it. To answer the challenge of Lord Berkenhead the first and second All Parties Conference was held at Delhi on 12th February 1928, and 19th May 1928, respectively. A seven member’s constitutional committee was formed in the conference. It has only two Muslim representatives namely Mr. Ali Imam and Mr. Nehru. His son Jawahar Lal Nehru was also a member of the committee. After staying at Allahabad from 3 months, the committee prepared a report. This report was called the Nehru report.

**Suggestions of Nehru Report:**

The anti Muslim suggestions of Nehru Report were as follows:

**1. Ending of Separate Electorate:**

The right of separate electorate for Muslims should be ended. This is a cause of sectarianism.

**2. Finding of More Seats than the Population:**

The right of protection of seats according to population proportion should be ended. Protection of seats means accepting sectarianism which is as bad as separate electorate. With that justification the suggestion was made that the demand for representation according to the proportion of population of Punjab and Bengal was rejected. The Muslims majority in these provinces can easily protect its interests.

**3. Ending of More Muslim Seats than Population:**

The Muslims should be given representation according to their population proportion in Muslim minority provinces and the method of giving more seats than population should be stopped.

**4. Refusal to give one third Representation to Muslims in the Centre:**

The Muslims should not be given one third representation in the Central Assembly, rather according to the proportion of their population 25 seats should be reserved for them.

**5. Separation of Sindh Province from Bombay:**

The division of provinces should be carried out once again one two basis, firstly the language should be common secondly the people of that area must have a desire to get separated. As the province of Sind covers both these terms therefore it should be separated from Bombay.

**6. Suggestion for Reforms in N.W.F.P and Avoidance from Balochistan:**

Constitutional reforms should be implemented in N.W.F.P Balochistan was not mentioned in this suggestion. The justification was given that it was not mentioned by mistake.

**7. Demand of Strong Central Government:**

A central type of government must be implemented in India under which the centre should have more power than the provinces besides not discussed authorities should be given to the centre so that it can become strong.

**8. Demand of Ordering the Colonial Rule:**

Instead of giving complete freedom India should be made a colony in which Defense and Foreign Affairs should remain with the British.

**Reaction of Muslim League:**

The anti Muslim suggestion of Nehru Report shattered the Lucknow pact and Delhi suggestions. Different Muslim leaders expressed their views and feelings on the reports which are as mentioned.

**1. Comments of Maulana Shaukat Ali Khan:**

Maulana Shaukat Ali Khan said:

From my childhood I am fond of keeping hunting dogs and I have never been them treat a rabbit like the Hindus have treated the Muslims in Nehru Report.

**2. Comment of Sir Agha Khan:**

Sir Agha Khan said:

Any sensible person cannot think that Muslims will accept these insulting conditions.

**3. View of Quaid-e-Azam:**

The Quaid-e-Azam on 22nd December 1928, at the failure of Calcutta convention and due to the Hindus Stubbornness commented on the Nehru Report.

From now the paths of Hindus Muslims are separate. In short all Muslim leaders expressed great dislike to the Nehru Report but it did not have any effect on Hindus. As a result it was accepted in All Parties Conference because of majority of Hindu Parties.

**Comments:**

The Suggestions of Nehru Report was based on Muslim enmity and were against the constitutional interests and rights of Muslims. Under these suggestions the Hindus had altogether forgotten about the terms of Lucknow Pact. Besides two things because clear by the suggestions of Nehru Report. First that Hindus are severe enemies of Muslims and do not want progress of Muslims. Secondly the Hindus are breakers of promise and chance seekers thereof they are not a trust worthy nation. This is why Quaid-e-Azam answered the Nehru Report on 25th March, 1929, with his fourteen points in which he protected the rights of Muslims. Whereas next year on 29th December 1930, Dr. Allama Iqbal gave the idea of a separate Islamic State for the Muslims of India in his Allahabad Address, which led to the creation of Pakistan.