**Cripps Mission**

**Write a note on Cripps Mission.**

The government of Great Britain took an important step to solve the problems in India in 1942. **Background**

In the 2 World War, The Japanese forces were heading towards South Asia. The war seemed to be going in Japanese favour. The preliminary successes of Japanese encouraged the Indian National Congress. The movements against the government by Congress were troublesome for the Britishers. Congressites were confident that Japanese would hand over the power to the Indians after Britain‟s defeat. The Muslims had already been demanding a separate state of their own and had passed the resolution of 1940. To cope with this situation the government of Great Britain sent Sir Stafford Cripps to find a suitable solution for the circumstances in the sub continent.

**Cripps Proposal:**

Cripps announced his proposal on 29 March 1942 following are its main points:

**Status of Domain**

The sub-continent will be given the status of a dominion after the war.

**Independence of the Indians In All Departments**

All government departments will be handed over to the Indian Ministers including Defense, Foreign Affairs and Communications.

**Central Constitutional Assembly**

A central constituent Assembly will be formed to formulate a constitution. The Constituent Assembly will be elected by the members of the Provincial Assemblies.

**Rights of Minorities**

Special steps will be taken to provide safeguards to the minorities.

**Provincial Autonomy**

After the formulation of the constitution by the Constituent Assembly, it will be sent to the provinces. The provinces who do not endorse the constitution will be empowered to create a separate and free status for themselves.

**Reaction of Political Parties:**

The Quaid-e-Azam and All India Muslim League expressed thanks to Cripps and the Government of Great Britain for the promise to the Muslim majority provinces free and independent status. The hint was a clear indication of the creation of Pakistan.

All India Muslim League expressed thanks for the proposed steps for the protection of the rights of minorities. All India Muslim League discussed the proposals in the meeting and after long discussions; it decided not to approve the Cripps proposals as the demand for Pakistan was not accepted in clear cut terms.

**Congress**

Gandhi and his political party, Indian national Congress, absolutely rejected the Cripps proposals. They ridiculed the proposals: A post dated cheque of a bank that is going to be bankrupt. The Congress criticized the right of veto, given to the provinces. It opposed the idea of partition. It expressed its displeasure for providing protection to the minorities.

**Conclusion:**

The British government under American pressure prepared the Cripps proposals. The government was not willing to agree to the demands of Indian national Congress. On the other hand Congress could not support the proposals when the Japanese were looking to be in strong position. The effort proved futile but from Muslim point of view, it was a step towards partition.