**Simla Deputation**

**Write a note on the Simla Delegation.**

Ans. Liberal Party of England had won the general elections under the leadership of Lloyd George in 1905. It believed in giving adequate safeguards to the Indian people by introducing constitutional reforms. The Liberal Party announced that it would soon introduce constitutional reforms in India. The Muslim leaders decided to avail this opportunity in order to apprise the Viceroy of the Muslims demands. A delegation of prominent Muslim leaders, from all over the country was ferried under the leadership of His Highness Sir Agha Khan.

**Formation of the Delegation:**

The Viceroy was vacationing at Simla. The Muslim leaders asked for the assistance of Mr. Archbold, the Principal of Aligarh College, to get an appointment with the viceroy. Mr. Archbold got in touch with the Private Secretary of the Viceroy Col. Dunlop Smith and requested him to get an appointment with the Viceroy and inform Mr. Archbold. The Muslim delegation comprising 35 Muslim leaders known as Simla Deputation, called on the Viceroy on 1st October, 1906 at Simla.

**Demands of Simla Delegation**

The deputation apprised the Viceroy of the Muslim demands. They expressed the need for the protection of the Muslim interests if representative form of government was to be introduced in India by the following ways.

**1. Demand of Separate Electorate:**

The Muslims should be given the authority to elect their representatives in the elections of the councils. For this reason the Muslim constituencies should be reserved meaning the Hindu and Muslim constituencies should be separated, so that Muslim voter could vote for Muslim representatives and Hindu voters for Hindu representatives.

**2. Demand for More Seats than Population:**

Muslims should be given more seats than their population because of their historical and political importance.

**3. Demand for Share in Government Service:**

Muslims should be given employment according to a special proportion in all the government & semi-government organizations.

**4. Membership of Judges and Executive Council:**

Muslims should be made judges of High courts and Supreme Courts, besides they should be nominated for the membership in executive council of the Viceroy.

**5. Representation in the Senate and Syndicate of Universities:**

Muslims should be given representation in the syndicate of the universities and senate.

**6. Making of Muslim Universities:**

Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College Aligarh should be given the status of a University.

**Response of Viceroy Lord Minto:**

Lord Minto gave a patient hearing to the demands of the Muslims presented by the simla deputation. Minto expressed his complete agreement with the principle of separate electorate. He promised to give sympathetic consideration to the demands and assured the deputation that he would do all what was possible to accept the demands and Viceroy said:-

I am aware of the injustices and aggression inflicted upon the Muslim and I am also trying to compensate them.

**Importance of Simla Delegation**

Simla delegation was successful because the Viceroy gave the positive response to the member of the delegation. The importance of Simla Delegation is as follows:-

**1. Basis of Pakistan Movement**

The formation and demands of Simla delegation are like a milestone in the history of Muslims of sub-continent. The positive and encouraging answer of the Viceroy of India created a sense of political awareness and confidence amongst the Muslims.

**2. Source of Establishment of Muslim League**

Successfulness of Simla Delegation motivated and encouraged the Muslims to establish the separate Muslim Political Part y for the Muslim in 1906.

**3. Security for Islamic Ideology:**

The demand for separate electorate by the delegation was an effort to free the Muslims from slavery of Hindus formed by British domination. Because of this demand the representation of Muslims in the councils and other elected offices was to be handed to Muslim leaders.

**3. Protection of Muslim Rights and Interests:-**

The demand for more seats than the population was an effort to make the golden era of Islamic rule and organizational and political abilities of the Muslims, prominent.

**4. Freedom from Economic Exploitation:-**

The demand for getting employment in government departments was an end to economic exploitation of Muslims.

**5. Representation in Administration and Judiciary:**

The demand for appointing Muslims in High Courts and Supreme Courts as judges and membership in the administrative council of Viceroy was a cause of creating a sense of security among the Muslims.

**6. Educational Development of Muslims:-**

The demand for representation in the Senate and Syndicate of Universities and the status of University to be given to Aligarh Mohammadan Anglo Oriental College was unavoidable for the educational development and awakening of political administrative consciousness.

**Conclusion:**

It was a great achievement of the Simla Deputation to have convinced the Viceroy about the genuineness of the Muslims demands. The Muslims were now convinced that organized efforts were essential to press for the acceptance of the demands. The most important demand of separate electorate was accepted by the government and incorporated in the Minto-Morley Reforms of 1909. At this time the Muslims had left the Congress and had no political platform to project their demands. They badly needed a forum for the projection and safeguard of their interests to counter the false propaganda of the Congress.