



Smart Revision

Elections Of 1937

Q: How successful was the Muslim League in 1937 elections? [7]

Ans: The ML was successful in 1937 elections to some extent. Jinnah showed great commitment to the cause of the Muslims, but the election results were a great disappointment for the Muslims League. Congress won absolute majorities in five provinces and was the largest single party in four others. It was invited to form ministries in the United Provinces, the Central Assam and the NWFP. Even in the three remaining provinces (Punjab, Sindh and Bengal) where there was a Muslim majority, the League did not do farewell. It won only 109 of the 482 seats reserves for Muslims.

The election had not been a success for the Muslim League, but it had brought benefits for them. It was the first major election the League had fought and helped unify the party after the internal split of the early 1930s. They learned a great deal about how to contest elections. It realized that it had to improve its organization and planning. The League knew that its support lay more in areas where the Muslims were a minority, rather than a majority. Where there was a majority the Muslims did not feel threatened by Hindu domination. It also realized that it had an 'image problem'. Its leaders were seen as aristocrats and provinces, whereas many Muslims at this time were poor and illiterate.