



# Smart Revision

## Cripps Mission 1942

**Q: Describe the Cripps Mission. [4]**

Ans: In March 1942 the British sent Sir Stafford Cripps a member of the cabinet, came to India to see if a compromise could be reached which would win support for the British war effort. In it was proposed that after the war an Indian Union would be set up with Dominion status (though individual provinces could opt out of the Union and negotiate their own independence); moreover, it was also said that after the war a Constituent Assembly should frame a new constitution and elections for the Constituent Assembly would be held immediately after the war. These proposals were to win support of Indian people but were rejected. ML and congress rejected these proposals as these were not fulfilling the demands of Congress and ML.

**Q: Why Cripps of 1942 was unsuccessful? [7]**

Ans: The ML rejected the plan immediately, as it contained no reference to the establishment of Pakistan. The League was insistent that there had to be a firm promise of Pakistan as a separate state. Anything else such as constitution making body Cripps proposed, would lead to Hindu Majority imposing a new Indian Union (IU) and denying rights of Muslims.

Congress also rejected the Cripps proposals, as it was now demanding immediate control of India's affairs. It was not prepared to wait until the war was over and was not sure that it trusted the British to deliver their promises. Gandhi called the proposals 'a post dated cheque on a failing bank'. Congress knew that the British were desperate and intended to exploit this. The congress was furious at suggestion that some provinces could opt out of the proposed Indian Union (IU) and negotiate their own independence from British. Due to these reasons Congress rejected the Cripps proposals.

Another reason was that now the congress knew that British control over India was declining, as they were giving too many concessions to the Indian population. The Congress thought that they should pressurize the British in this condition to leave India rather than to support the British.

**Q: Why Cripps Mission arrived in India? [7]**

Ans: One of the reasons was that the British faced some major military setbacks during the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war, not only in Europe in 1940 and 1941, but also at the hands of the Japanese who entered the war at the end of 1941 and supported Germany. After their attack on Pearl Harbor they advanced through South East Asia as far as Burma. India was now directly threatened. The British were even more anxious to build stronger support. So the Cripps Mission came to India to persuade the Indians to help them against Japanese threat.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> World War broke out in Europe on 3 September 1939. The Germans were at war with Britain and France which had a direct impact on the subcontinent, as the British Indian Army was the largest contingent of the British army. The ML and Congress rejected the British offer to support them in the war, so to get the support of Indians in the war against Germany Cripps mission arrived in India to persuade them, to help in the war effort.

However, the most important reason was that the Muslim League had made its position clear, by passing the Pakistan Resolution that now the Muslims wanted nothing more than a separate homeland but Congress was vehemently opposed to any partition of India and Congress wanted to have complete independence. These issues were creating a gulf b/w the Hindus and Muslims. The British had still not accepted that their control of the country should end due to this reason they sent Cripps proposals to develop cooperation and arbitration b/w the Congress and ML to make sure that British grip over India could not be weakened.

**Q: Why was Cripps Mission felt to be unsatisfactory? [10]**

Ans: Cripps Mission was felt to be unsatisfactory because it did not fulfill the demands of neither Muslims nor Hindus. Both rejected Cripps proposals. In March 1942 the British sent Sir Stafford Cripps a member of the cabinet, came to India to see if a compromise could be reached which would win support for the British war effort. In it was proposed that after the war an Indian Union would be set up with Dominion status (though individual provinces could opt out of the Union and negotiate their own independence); moreover, it was also said that after the war a Constituent Assembly should frame a new constitution and elections for the Constituent Assembly would be held immediately after the war. These proposals were to win support of Indian people but were rejected. ML and Congress rejected these proposals as these were not fulfilling the demands of Congress and ML.

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Thus, the Cripps proposals failed to satisfy the demands of the ML and Congress so was found to be unsatisfactory by the ML and Congress.

