

At the first post-War Congress session in September 1945 at Bombay, a strong resolution was adopted declaring Congress support for the INA cause. Defence of INA prisoners in the court were organised by Bhulabhai Desai, Tej Bahadur Sapru, Kailash Nath Katju, Jawaharlal Nehru and Asaf Ali.

Source: Spectrum by Rajiv Ahir A Brief History of Modern India (2018) Ch-24 Post-War National Scenario

Q.14) With reference to the Grouping of provincial assemblies under the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946, consider the following statements:

1. The plan aimed at grouping of existing provincial assemblies into three sections based on religion.
2. The Congress perceived the grouping as optional and hence, against the creation of Pakistan.
3. The Muslim League believed British support for Pakistan to be implied through grouping as compulsory.
4. A constituent assembly was to be elected by provincial assemblies by proportional representation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The plan aimed at grouping of existing provincial assemblies into three sections based on religion

- 1) **Section-A** Madras, Bombay, Central Provinces, United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa (Hindu-majority provinces)
- 2) **Section-B** Punjab, North-West Frontier Province and Sindh (Muslim-majority provinces)
- 3) **Section-C** Bengal and Assam (Muslim-majority provinces)

Statement 2 is correct. The Congress perceived the grouping as optional and hence, against the creation of Pakistan. They also believed that one constituent assembly was aimed; and the League no longer had a veto.

Statement 3 is correct. The Muslim League believed Pakistan to be implied by the plan in compulsory grouping of provinces.

Statement 4 is correct. A constituent assembly was to be elected by provincial assemblies by proportional representation (voting in three groups—General, Muslims, Sikhs). This constituent assembly would be a 389-member body with provincial assemblies sending 292, chief commissioner's provinces sending 4, and princely states sending 93 members.