

Muslim Politics in Dera Ghazi Khan under Colonial Punjab: An Appraisal

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Abstract

This analytical research deals with the study of the Muslim politics in Dera Ghazi Khan under Colonial Punjab. In Subcontinent, Punjab has always influenced on the society but also played an important role in the politics of Pakistan not only but it had contributed remarkably its role in the electoral politics during colonial era. With the annexation of Punjab after 1849, British government introduced several political and administrative reforms in the country. The beginning of the 20th century brought different political changes in India as the electoral reforms which especially demanded by All India Muslim League in 1909. After the enforcement of India Act 1935, which provided an opportunity to the people to elect their representative especially in provinces. Muslim League and Unionist party contested the elections 1937 and 1945. With entire Punjab, District Dera Ghazi Khan played very significant role in the politics of Punjab. During the elections 1937 Muslim League did not get any remarkable success and Muhammad Ali Jinnah re organized Muslim League. The resolution of Pakistan turned Muslim League into a popular party of Punjab and in Dera Ghazi Khan People also attracted to Muslim League and accepted it as a their representative political party in District Dera Ghazi and proved it in the elections 1945-46 when it defeated Unionist, Ahrar and Congress. This study explores the role of electoral politics, elections, political parties and their contribution in the politics 1937-1947.

Keyword: Colonial, Elections, India, Politics, Punjab.

Review of Literature

Review of literature is considered as the most integral part of Research. While in research especially the historical research dominantly dependent on the review of literature. For this

study different sources are the part this review of literature. The most relevant material consulted to this research which provides information about history of colonial Dera Ghazi Khan, administration, people, culture, political parties and elections. Among them Gulbahr by Hatto Ram (Ram, 1982), Tawareekh-e- Dera Ghazi Khan by Munshi Hakam Chand (Chand, 2005), Gazetteer of the Dera Ghazi Khan District 1893-97 (Government, 2008). Muraqqa Dera Ghazi Khan (Nutkani, 1985), Tareekh Taunsa (gurmani, Tareekh Taunsa, 2021), Tareekh Dera Ghazi Khan (Laghari, 2005), Dera Ghazi Khan Taraqi or Siyasat (Industries, 2009), encyclopedia of Punjab (Bhatti, 1986), Dera ky Tehzeebi Khadokhal (Khan H. S., 1998) are most remarkable.

Research Methodology

This study is a descriptive in analytical form. It will complete through historical method using qualitative approach. For this Research the documentary material consist on both primary and secondary sources will be used.

Discussion

Punjab is the largest province of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in terms of population. Punjab was named after the five rivers. The word Punjab is derived from the Persian words panj, meaning five, and aab, meaning water. It was a large province of the united India. When the Indian subcontinent was partitioned, this province was also divided into two parts (Bhatti, 1986, p. 9). Punjab the land of five rivers is considered very important in the history of South Asia through ages. On the down fall of Sikh Punjab was annexed to Colonial government after second Anglo-Sikh war. Punjab had played an important role in the freedom movement of Pakistan especially in the last quarter of the 20th century(Azadi mein Punjab Ka Kirdar, 1996, P.6.) It remained as central attention of parties since British regime. In ancient time Dera Ghazi Khan was the part of the famous civilization which was Indus civilization. It is said that the old name of Dera Ghazi Khan was "Dera Hay Ghazi Khan". The word Dera is derived from the Persian and Balochi language of Dera, which means the "A resident" and a place of living. Over the time the word "Hay" was omitted and the people called the Dera Ghazi Khan. When Ghazi Khan first ruled the area so he added his name with the "Dera". So the name became famous as Dera Ghazi Khan mean the resident of Ghazi Khan. Ghazi Khan was the leader of Mirani dynasty. Mirani Dynasty ruled over Dera Ghazi from 1472-1769. There were almost 14 rulers in the Mirani Dynasty ruled on the region. Haji Khan and Ghazi Khan was their titles and they famous with these titles. Dera Ghazi Khan was remained under different rulers in different times. When it became the Baloch race's resident it became more dominant and an important part. When Islam Khan cut himself from the Hussain Langah of the Multan. Langah became insecure and he invited a Baloch leader which was Sohrab Dodai. He came here to help him in Multan. Sohrab Dodai was the father of Ismail Khan and Fateh Khan. When Sohrab Khan came here another leader of Mirani tribe which was a branch of Dodai tribe came here. The name of the Mirani Leader was Haji Khan. Hussain Langah gave "jagir" to them and it was the foundation of the city Dera Ghazi Khan. At that time the most of the area was desert and few town have been exist, viz Harrand, Dajal, Asni, Choti Zerein, Choti Bala and Mari. The Mirani government had a war with the Nahar of Seetpur. The Nahar became dominant and they exile the Mirani's from Dajal and Harrand.

The boundaries of Mirani government was extended to Muzaffargarh and the Layyah Tehsil at that time. Mirani government reconized himself as the successor of Mughals. They considered himself as the sovereign of the Mughal dynasty. The last ruler of the Mirani dynasty was Ghazi Khan who die in 1758 and the Mirani dynasty also collapsed. After the death of Mirani ruler the region of Dera Ghazi Khan became part of many other government and then it became the part of British Colonial government. In 1849 when British Government took over the power from Sikhs. So then the government demolish the rank of Governor and introduced new term "Deputy Commissioner". The first Deputy Commissioner of Dera Ghazi Khan was General Court Land. He was appointed by the British Government in 1849 to 1854. At that time Layyah was the divisional headquarter and Dera Ghazi Khan, Khan Garh, Dera Ismail Khan was the linked with the Layyah as Zilas. It was the time when Dera Ghazi Khan became an official part of British Colonial Government. At that time the Baloch Sardars presented themselves to the British Government and then the Government allotted them Jageers and ranks. The Government gave them title of "Tuman" and the Sardar was known as Tumandar. Tumandar was loyal to the government and he was the Sardar of the Tribe and also the politician of the region. Many tribes accepted the Tumandari like Laghari, Khosa, Mari, Buzdar, Qaisrani and many more. The politics of the region was belonged to the Tumandar. At that time he people considered their Sardar as their Political leader. They cast their votes only to their Sardar. The politics was relay on tribal votes. Dera Ghazi Khan was the most south western district of Punjab during Colonial period. After the annexation of Punjab, Colonial administration formed a new political setup as Tumandari system in Dera Ghazi Khan. It was divided in nine Tumans. Initially these Tumandars were the center of power during 19th century. British Government introduced different constitutional reforms and announced elections after 1935 India Act. It was a new phase of the electoral politics in India. In Punjab Unionists were dominant at that time. During election 1937 to 1946 Dera Ghazi Khan played its active role through political personalities and Political Parties i.e. All India Muslim League and Unionist Party. With the passage of time, many other leaders objected on the rank of Tumandari system. So they rose their voice against it and demanded the Self-Government in the region and in Subcontinent. After that many political parties have been in existence. But the jagirdar and Tumandars have had very strong influence in the region and the parties were not able to perform here without the supports of Tumandar and jagirdars. At that time Muslim League, Unionist Party and Jamat-e-Islami had their member in the Dera Ghazi Khan. After the election of 1946 the local politics became weak in the region and the influence of local politician became also low. Dera Ghazi Khan lies between north latitudes 28.20 and 31.5, and longitudes 69.35 and 70.59 east. To its north is Dera Ismail Khan, west is Loralai, and east is the Indus River and Muzaffargarh district, while its southern boundary connects with Kashmore in Sindh. The landscape of Dera Ghazi Khan divided into four categories. The western mountainous area of Sulaiman Range, the rocky and narrow gorges locally known as "Tookh.", the canal-irrigated plains and riverine or "Bet" areas. The famous hill torrents of the Dera Ghazi Khan is Sanghar which is contains the torrent of Bhati, Kanwan and Mahoi. The other torrents which are in Dera Ghazi are Sori, Vador, Sakhi Sarwar and Mithawan. There are several other small and large torrents which called "Churh or Larih", and "large ones called "Naieen, Jatki, and Khaur". The study also explore the electoral Politics of Colonial Dera Ghazi Khan 1937-1947. The study examines the decade of electoral politics

in the said region. Because the region has a rich political contribution in the subcontinent. From the Revolt of 1857, which shook the foundations of British rule, to the eventual political awakening of Jats, Punjab played a crucial role in the larger struggle for independence in South Asia. Despite its strategic importance, Punjab remained indifferent to freedom for a long time, caught in the web of colonial policies designed to keep it submissive.

The great and permanent contributions made by the Punjab Muslims had a major influence on the Pakistan Movement. Their relentless determination and unselfish sacrifices provide the reason for a unique nation with the power to thrive. Most of the political and financial activities among Muslims on the subcontinent took place in Punjab. The movement found a clear road forward during the landmark All India Muslim League conference held in Lahore in 1940. The Pakistan Resolution was approved this session. The people of Punjab have been committed since then and been ready to make major sacrifices in support of the cause (Bhatti, 1986, p. 44)

Youth of Punjab participated actively in the movement, skillfully spreading the ideas of the Muslim League. The Farmers, workers, students, academics, authors, and reporters made significant contributions; journalists used newspapers and magazines to raise political consciousness among the people; religious scholars developed a feeling of responsibility towards Islam. The lectures and messages from Muslim League leaders inspired the Punjab community. The impressive performance of the Muslim League in the 1946 elections demonstrated that the demand for Pakistan aligned with the public's will. Cities like Rawalpindi, Lahore, Amritsar, Gujranwala, and Multan witnessed remarkable demonstrations, marches, and meetings in support of Pakistan (Bhatti, 1986).

Punjab turned into a battleground of death and anarchy when Pakistan came to be born in 1947. Horrific upheavals erupted, and Muslims suffered greatly. Many lives were lost, and millions of people were compelled from their houses. Notwithstanding the pain, their sacrifices only helped to intensify the fight; at last, on August 14, 1947, Pakistan came to be a reality.

In the Pakistan Movement, the people of Punjab showed remarkable bravery and dedication. One shall always remember their efforts and contributions as absolutely vital components of history. The fight of peoples of Punjab for the birth of Pakistan was unmatched. To guarantee the triumph of the Pakistan Movement, they gave their lives, money, and honor. Muslims of Punjab were indispensable at all levels politics, media, religion, education, or business. The movement was largely aided by active religious scholars. By use of mosques, religious education, and public events, they awakened the people's spirit and presented Pakistan's creation as necessary for the survival of Islam and Muslims. This resulted in the movement having overwhelmingly popular backing. Students enthusiastically embraced the movement as well. Muslim students utilized demonstrations, marches, and rallies at educational institutions to make their concerns heard. Many Colleges and institutions passed resolutions supporting the Muslim League, so bolstering the cause. As Pakistan's independence approached, Hindu and Sikh extremists committed atrocities against the Muslims of Punjab. Despite the fact that thousands of people had been slaughtered, their position remained unchanged. Their sacrifices indicated that Pakistan was a war for Muslim survival, not just a political one. Even after Pakistan was created, Punjabis had a significant impact on the country's stability and progress. Golden letters in Pakistani history will always recognize

their sacrifices and contributions of these peoples.

Furthermore, true is the fact that many Muslims gave their life in Punjab, so helping the Pakistan Movement to be successful. East Punjab Muslims made the most enormous sacrifices. East Punjab Muslims found terrible conditions with the announcement of Pakistan's founding. Their homes were torched, their women were attacked, and their children were slaughtered among terrible crimes. Along the migration, many were martyred and millions were compelled to flee. Notwithstanding these atrocities, the Muslim soul stayed unshakable. Their love of Pakistan never changed; rather, their sacrifices confirmed the movement's success. Without regard for their lives or riches, the Muslims of Punjab enthusiastically took part in every stage of the fight.

Furthermore, important is the fact that during the revolution numerous intellectuals, politicians, and academics were vital players. By means of their publications, talks, and addresses, they awakened the awareness of the Muslim community. Under Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's direction, these leaders put out great effort to bring the idea of a separate Muslim nation to pass. The people of Punjab were very important for Pakistan's growth even after the nation was founded. Punjab has always shown its aptitudes in agriculture, industry, education, or defense. Punjab is soregarded as the backbone of Pakistan till now.

The Muslims of Punjab made numerous sacrifices throughout the struggle for Pakistan's independence, paving the way for the country's formation. Though it is difficult to quantify these expenses, history shows that Muslims fought heroically for a distinct country without concern for their lives, wealth, or honor. Muslims faced relentless sectarian violence and persecution, as well as social and economic exploitation. On all fronts, Punjab Muslims demonstrated remarkable bravery and perseverance. Awakening the Muslim community was mostly relied on leaders, professors, and intellectuals involved in the independence movement.

Dark chapters in history still surround the crimes done against Muslims. Furthermore true in many places are Muslim homes burned on fire, women attacked, and young children mercilessly killed. Many academics, leaders, and common Muslims were killed at this period. Despite these hardships, the Muslim spirit remained unshakable. Even after Pakistan's establishment, Muslims in Punjab played an important role in its prosperity. Punjab has consistently demonstrated its strength in military, industry, education, and agriculture. Punjabis have made sacrifices throughout history to safeguard Pakistan's sovereignty and stability, and they continue to guide the country forward today. Actually, Pakistan was gained through considerable sacrifice. Muslims will always be the guardians of this country since they sacrificed their lives for it.

Since their colonial dominance depended on some bought-off feudal kings turning Punjab into a market for Rangoon, Punjab became the lifeline of the British Empire. The empire had only one option when evidence of awakening and movement started to show: to close the whole institution. Given the larger political scene of South Asia, one may understand Punjab's independence-seeking drive. Actually, the evolution of modern politics has benefited much from Punjab and this part of Asia. The 1857 uprising drastically changed the dominance of the British East India Company. The annexation of Punjab in 1849 helped to confirm this standard even more. Punjabi Jats of Punjab started to understand the continuous political

process and realized that, should Punjab not fully participate in this struggle, the colonial power would use all means required to keep Punjab as a captive indefinitely. Bengal too underwent constitutional revision (Zulfiqar, 1994, p. 7).

The Muslim League was on top and Unionist Party was runner up. In Dera Ghazi Khan the people were support in Muslim League and there were many persons who were personally attached with Allama Iqbal and Jinnah. The District has an Geo strategic position due to multi factors. In electoral politics of Punjab during Colonial era it played a decisive role especially in the election 1946. This study will explore the politics of this era and will find the solution of the problem. Politics in Punjab. If it is look at the electoral politics of Punjab from 1937 to 1947, it was a different kind of province. Despite having a majority, they were divided into different regional and national parties, which pushed them towards failure in this chaos. This is the reason why they could not achieve success in the elections. One of the major reasons why the League lost badly in this election was that its presence among the people could not be properly presented. This is the reason why the Unionist Party had more senior figures than the Muslim League, which allowed the Unionist Party to achieve a significant victory in the elections, which was a blow to the Muslim League's claim that it was the representative party of Muslims.

After election the result was disappointed the muslims in Punjab because they lost in their majority province. While in the entire India Muslim League won only few seat. But it was also worst for congress because it won only 25 seats from Muslims nominated seats of five hundred. after the failure in 1937 Jinnah met with Iqbal and tried to rebuilt Muslim league. But after this, there were many more reorganizations of the Muslim League, the result of which was that in the 1945 elections, the Muslim League made a clean sweep of the Muslim seats and even in the district of Dera Ghazi Khan, which was considered remote and backward like the whole of Punjab, the Muslim League achieved a resounding victory in the elections. This was a new change in the electoral politics of Dera Ghazi Khan which became a part of history. The Muslim League won all the seats in Dera Ghazi Khan, and the Dera Ghazi Khan North seat played a decisive role in its success in the Punjab Assembly. Similarly, in the civil disobedience movement, the Dera region was the only area where the government machinery was thwarted. The success of the civil disobedience forced the Tiwana government to resign. With the establishment of Pakistan, the post of Speaker of the Punjab Assembly went to Sheikh Faiz Muhammad Barrister of the Dera, which was a manifestation of the political maturity here.

The politics of Dera Ghazi Khan, the role of landlords and waders in the local politics of Dera Ghazi Khan was the most during the colonial period. The landlords were part of the major political parties and only these landlords could do politics. There were two major parties in the district, one of which was the Unionist Party and second was All India Muslim League.

After the Act 1935 when election announced, Muslim league was not in position to contest the elections because it was not ready for elections. It had no proper party organization and structure. All elect able were attracted towards unionist party and Muslim League had not candidates for elections 1937. This was a worst position for the party. In January 1937, elections were held in a total of eleven provinces of India. According to the results, the Congress got an absolute majority in five provinces (Madras, United Provinces, Central Provinces of Bihar and Orissa). The Congress leadership refused to form a coalition

government in these provinces and thus single-party Congress governments were formed in these provinces. A few days later, Congress leaders also formed governments in Bombay and the Frontier with the help of some minority parties. Thus, the Congress established its ministries in seven out of the eleven provinces of India (Ahmad, 2025, p. 163).

Sardar Nawab Jamal Khan Leghari was also included in the cabinet and worked as the Minister for Public Works. Later, his ministry was changed. Similarly, Sheikh Faiz Muhammad was also included in the cabinet and he was the Minister for Local Government and Public Works. This shows the representation of Dera Ghazi Khan. But due to the Congress central ministry, he did not have much influence.

In November 1939, the ministries were forced to resign due to differences between the Congress and the British over the question of India's participation in the Second World War. The Muslim League celebrated Liberation Day on 22 December 1939 on the instructions of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The elections of 1937 and the performance of the Congress ministries formed as a result of them changed the axis of the Muslim League's politics. First during the Mughal court and later after the arrival of the British in India, this was the first time that Hindus came to power. They fully demonstrated their mentality, politics, narrow-mindedness and extremism. Rather, they also expressed their ambitions for the future.

For these reasons, the Muslims of India were frightened. They not only saw their separate identity in danger, but such conditions were being created. Where they were also being forced to accept the slavery of their long-time slaves. For which the Muslims were not willing at any cost. To be honest, the 1937 elections were no less than a shock for the Muslims. This is why the Chief Ministers of three provinces, Punjab Sikandar Hayat Khan, Bengal Fazlul Haq and Assam Sir Saadullah Khan, simultaneously joined the Muslim League and they accepted Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as their leader and responded to his mission. With his arrival, the Muslim League emerged as an invincible force. After going through the experience of the 1937 elections, the Muslim leaders realized that in India, not only the protection of their rights was necessary, but complete right to self-determination could cure their fears and feelings of deprivation. After such a great change, the leaders of the All India Muslim League were now able to present the fruits of their thirty-four years of politics to the Muslims. We see this fruit and this destination in the form of the Pakistan Resolution, which was approved by the All India Muslim League in its twenty-seventh annual session held in Lahore in March 1940. Therefore, we can say that the biggest and immediate impetus behind the Pakistan Resolution was the elections of 1937 and the Congress ministries.

Unlike the Muslim League, the Congress won all the seats in Dera Ghazi Khan and three out of three candidates who were Congressmen won. Among them, Nawab Jamal Khan Leghari, Sheikh Faiz Muhammad Advocate and Khoja Murtaza were prominent. Later, he resigned due to illness and was replaced by Muhammad Azam Zai Mulghani MNA. And he remained a member of the Legislative Assembly until this election in 1945.

Unionist Party, played an important role in Punjab politics, it also had a prominent position in Dera Ghazi Khan. The Unionist Party was completely successful in the 1937 elections, while it also won two seats in the 1945 elections. After the 1937 elections, the Unionist Party established its government in Punjab and emerged as a subordinate party of the Congress. 100% of the Muslims considered the Unionist Party as their representative in Punjab. A

leading leader of this party, Sikandar Hayat Khan, visited Dera Ghazi Khan in 1939. This was the first visit of any government member to a member. Among the other people represented in Dera Ghazi Khan were Sheikh Faiz Muhammad, Parliamentary Secretary, and besides him, Jamal Khan Leghari and Ahsan Khan Garchani were also present here. All of them were elected in the elections. During this visit, Sir Sikandar Yad Ko Kaifi also presented his poem to him in which he paid tribute to him.

Dera Ghazi Khan is considered a backward area. When electoral politics started during the British rule and political parties came into existence, electoral politics also started in Dera Ghazi Khan. When elections were held in 1937 and 1945, Dera Ghazi Khan played a very important role in Punjab politics. In 1937, the Unionist Party achieved a resounding victory. Similarly, in the 1945 elections, the Muslim League gained a clear advantage instead of the Unionists, and Dera Ghazi Khan gained a very important position in Punjab politics when the majority party in the Punjab Assembly was to be decided in the by-elections. If we talk about parliamentary politics, Dera Ghazi Khan has always had a prominent place in it. When the first elections were held after the India Act of 1935, the Unionist Party was at its peak due to government support and was practically its mouthpiece in Punjab. At that time, the Muslim League was considered a newborn and did not have much popularity among the people. In many areas, no one even knew about the Muslim League. Most of the landlords in Punjab joined the Unionist Party and they were the main candidates during the elections in Punjab. These people had a special influence over the people and the area and for this reason, the Unionist Party candidates had an advantage over the Muslim League candidates. Not only in Dera Ghazi Khan, but also in the entire subcontinent, there was a lack of Muslim League leadership and in these circumstances, the Muslim League participated in the elections, due to which the Muslim League lost badly in the entire Punjab, although it was a large Muslim majority province. After these elections, the organization of the Muslim League began in earnest. The Pakistan Resolution of 1940 proved to be an important impetus in this regard. When people heard the name of Pakistan, people started turning towards the Muslim League. The 1946 elections hold an important place in Dera Ghazi Khan. In the 1945 and 46 elections, Dera Ghazi Khan had four seats, one of which was for the governor. In the northern seat, Atta Muhammad Buzdar won unopposed against the governor of Advocate Taman Qaisrani, Amir Muhammad Qaisrani, because the nomination papers of Amir Muhammad Qaisrani were rejected. He was the candidate of the Union S Party. Amir Muhammad Qaisrani filed an election petition which was accepted and the election was declared null and void. In the elections, Atta Muhammad Buzdar once again won the election with a clear majority. It was a big success for the Muslim League, although he was given a lot of bribery. Muhammad Buzdar was also encouraged to separate from the Muslim League and for this he was given a lot of bribery that he would be given five square meters of land along with a ministry. In addition, he was afraid that once again the election could be declared null and void through an election petition against him, but Atta Muhammad Buzdar flatly refused. Unionist candidate Sheikh Faiz Muhammad Advocate won against Muslim League candidate Akhwand Abdul Karim from the urban constituency. He had the support of Nawab Jamal Khan Leghari in this constituency. Jamal Khan Leghari won the Tum Andar seat with nine votes from the Tum Andar. After some time, both Sheikh Faiz Muhammad Advocate and Nawab Jamal Khan

Leghari joined the Muslim League. The direction of parliamentary politics in Dera Pacha changed completely from Unionist to Muslim League. The election campaign was very effective. In this string, Mian Iftikhar Hussain brought the loudspeaker from Lahore to run the election campaign. The Muslim League had only one vehicle, which was a jeep named Valley, which was given for the campaign. About one hundred and fifty students from the areas came to participate in this campaign, including many big names. Along with the top leadership of the Muslim League, the names of Hammad Raza and Saeed Kirmani are also included among the student leaders. The top leadership, including the family leader Abdul Hameed Dasti, was present in this constituency and took full part in this campaign. Union East leader Ibrahim Barq tried his best to prevent the League leadership from reaching Dera Ghazi Khan, but despite this, the Muslim League leadership reached Taunsa and a huge rally was held there in which Section 144 was also violated.

The Unionist Party was the candidate while Akhund Abdul Karim Khan was from the Muslim League. In which the Unionist Party candidate Sheikh Faiz Muhammad won by getting 3665 votes. While Akhund Abdul Karim Khan Pledger was defeated by getting 2986 votes. The students of the Muslim Student Federation Islamia College, Lahore came to the Muslim League candidate's moral and political numbers and kept delivering the message of the Quaid-e-Azam to every house and requesting for a route. The students who were sent to this constituency in the form of a group included Sarwar Khan (group leader), Ahmed Saeed Kirmani (former federal minister Muhammad Akbar, Umar Khan, Muhammad Nazir, Amjadullah Muhammad Saad, Imdad Hussain etc. (2) Assalamu Alaikum, Mian Iftikharuddin also came under the leadership, who wrote a book inside the Jamia Masjid. Apart from him, Ghulam Yazdani, Mian Iftikharuddin, Abdul Bari, Sardar Shaukat, Major Ashiq Hussain, Nawab Sadiq Hussain Qureshi, etc., along with other people, the entire leadership was running this campaign. Along with Sardar Naseer Muhammad Khan Khosa, Khwaja Zakaria and Khwaja Sadiduddin also supported the Muslim League.

In the 1946 Punjab Legislative Council elections for Dera Ghazi Khan South, Sardar Bahadur Khan Dareshak came on the platform of the Muslim League, while Ghaus Bakhsh was the candidate of the United Party. Two independent candidates included Gul Muhammad and Muhammad Azeem Khan. In this election, Sardar Bahadur Khan Dareshak of the Muslim League won by a huge majority. Some representatives of the Muslim Student Federation of Islamia College, Lahore came here to provide political and moral support to Sardar Bahadur Khan Dareshak and among them Tufail Chaudhry (group leader), Abdul Rashid, Muhammad Shafi, Bashir Ahmed, Muhammad Hussain, Ghulam Nabi, Nazir Ahmed, Maqbool Ahmed etc. were included.

A separate identity was created to represent the tribal area of Dera Ghazi Khan and to please the tribals here. Only tribals were allowed to contest elections in this constituency. Which was called the Member Legislative Assembly (Tribal Areas). In this, the British settlers had the right to vote or a person who had at least graduation education or who owned government benefits and fixed property could vote. According to this system, a candidate could win the election with eleven or thirteen votes. In this constituency of 1946, Sardar Jamal Khan Laghari was elected as a member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. He had the support of the Unionist Party.

Conclusion

Punjab as a Muslim majority province had played an important role in politics of the colonial era. India Act 1935 promoted the electoral politics in India not only but provide a new energy to political Parties All Indian National Congress, Unionist and Muslim League. Punjab was the central power for Muslim,s politics. Muslim League and Union Party were the major political rival and with the support of the colonial government the majority of feudal in Punjab joined Unionist Party before the election 1937 under the leader ship of Sir Fazal Hussain. Muslim League bitterly defeated in the election and only secured single seat of Mian Barkat Ali Constituency. Sir Fazal Hussain formed government in Punjab. In the election 1937, was a worst defeat but Jinnah did not lose heart and he brought reforms in Muslim League. The resolution of Pakistan brought a change and Muslim League increased its popularity after this resolution. The elections 1945-46 changed the politics of Punjab and Muslim swept the elections with a heavy mandate but failed to form its government. Khizir Hiyat Tiwana formed a Unionist Government with the support of Congress, Akalidal and small parties. A civil disobedience in Punjab also forced Tiwana government to resign from government. After the 3rd June Plan 1947 Punjab Assembly passed a resolution for the division of Punjab and Pakistan emerged on the map of the world. The political role of Punjab in the Pakistan Movement will always be remembered, in which prominent figures from all parts of Punjab, including Dera Ghazi Khan, contributed. Their role will always be remembered in golden words. The politics of Dera Ghazi Khan after the India Act of 1935, one thing is clear as day: The Unionist Party, formed under government patronage, had a prominent position. In the 1937 elections, the Unionist Party won a clear majority and established its government in Punjab, but in 1945-46, the Unionist Party was badly defeated. One reason for this was that all the bad political families had to join the Muslim League. This is the reason why the popularity of the Muslim League increased and all four assembly seats of Dera Ghazi Khan, including the Azad Muslim League, were won by the Muslim League, and thus the Muslim League put an end to the politics of the Unionist Party in Dera Ghazi Khan.

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