

Abstract

It is generally anticipated that creation of Pakistan was the outcome of extraordinary efforts of Muslim community of Indian subcontinent, but it is also an undeniable reality that various minority groups contributed to the cause by offering their outstanding services. Various political leaders belonging to minorities contributed in Pakistan's movement. A lot of non-Muslims chose to live in Pakistan despite the fact that it was going to be a Muslim majority country. Mr. Jinnah was quite clear about the status of minorities in newly created state and therefore, assured them preservation of their rights along with complete freedom to practice any religion they wanted. Minorities' ministers in Pakistan are not only the representatives of all residing non-Muslims in the country but also work for the betterment of minorities. The role of minister of minorities in parliament is very important during the process of legislation regarding minorities. This study intends to examine the critical role of ministers belonging to minority communities in development of the country. Minorities are allotted specific amount of seats in Senate and National Assembly. The minister of minorities is responsible for assuring that minorities are given their respective rights and that they play their roles in different fields. Minorities' minister ensures that they have access to their rights to worship, education, employment, voting, and freedom of speech, cultural and social values, and any other rights that have been granted to them under the constitution. In political history of Pakistan, Minorities were disregarded from fair representation in Cabinets more specifically under military regimes; they were not even part of any Constitution making committee in few cases. All military rulers i.e. Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan and Zia ul haq were not interested in providing representation to minorities in their Cabinets during the times of Martial law with an exception of Justice Cornelius who was appointed as a Law Minister during Yahya Khan's era. This study essentially aims at determining the leading causes behind the relatively minimized influence and participation of the minority ministers during military regimes as compared to their more visible and dynamic role in the democratic governments.