



“क्या पढ़ना है क्या छोड़ना है, सफलता के लिए अभ्यर्थी / प्रतिभागी को यह जानना आना चाहिए”

SOME OTHER IMP TOPICS :

1. The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crime Act, 1919

Governor General Chelmsford had appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Justice Sydney Rowlatt in 1917 for retrospections of the nature of revolution and for suggestion which was popularly known as 'Rowlatt Committee'. In 1918, committee submitted its report with recommendation for punitive as well as preventive measures. This act empowered the government to arrest any person without warrant and can detain for two years without trial.

Provisions of Act

- The Governor-General had power to implement the Act to any area.
- The Act envisages for the speedy trial of offences.
- In the interest of public safety, suspected persons could be arrested and confined.
- It provided that persons interned under the Defence of India Act may not be released,
- In the trials of such cases the juris were to be dispensed with.

Conclusion

The act was injected in British Indian polity to overcome on the ongoing political activities and popular liberties. The act contains two philosophies- *punitive and preventive* to bring any individual under an executive control within the scope of act that ceased to apply any region.

2. Muddiman Committee (1924) Indian members of the Committee

1. Sir Sivaswami Aiyar
2. Dr. R P Paranjape
3. Sir Tejbahadur Sapru
4. Mohammad Ali Jinnah

The concept behind the appointment of the committee for making an investigation on diarchy issue on the Constitution into the working of the Constitution as set up in 1921 under the Indian

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Council Act of 1919. The report was submitted in 1925 that consisted of two parts- Majority and Minority Report.

The Majority Report: It consisting of officials and loyalists declared that Dyarchy had not been established. They also felt that the system had not been given a fair trial and hence recommended only minor changes.

The Minority Report: It consisting of only Non-Official Indian stated that the Act of 1919 had failed. It also opined that what was needed was a Constitution framed on a permanent basis with a provision for automatic progress in the future.

Recommendations of Muddiman Committee

1. Condemned Diarchy and recommended minor changes in the duties of non- official Indians.
2. Recommended fundamental changes in the structure of the Government of India Act of 1919.

It, therefore recommended the appointment of a Royal Commission. Lord Birkenhead, the Secretary of State for India said that action would take on the basis of majority report.

3.The Simon Commission : Report & Recommendations

Simon Commission was constituted under the leadership of Sir John Simon to look into the functioning of the constitutional system in India and suggest changes. It was officially known as ‘Indian Statutory Commission’ and consists of four conservative, two Labourites and one liberal member from the British Parliament.

The British government appointed a commission to enquire into the working of the government of India act of 1919 and to suggest further reforms in the system of administration. This commission is known as the Simon commission, after Sir John Simon who headed it. Its appointment came as a rude shock to the Indian people. The members of the commission were all Englishmen and not a single Indian was included in it. The government showed no inclination of accepting the demand for Swaraj. The composition of the commission confirmed the fears of the Indian people. The appointment of the commission sparked off a wave of protest all over the country.

In 1927, the annual session of the congress was held at Madras. It decided to Boycott the commission. The Muslim league also decided to boycott the commission. The commission



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arrived in India on 3 February 1928. On that day, the entire country observed a hartal. In the afternoon on that day, meetings were held all over the country to condemn the appointment of the commission and to declare that the people of India would have nothing to do with it. There was firing at demonstrators in Madras and lathi charges at many places. The commission faced massive protest demonstrations and hartals wherever it went. The central legislative assembly decided by a majority that it would have nothing to do with the commission. All over the country the cry of ‘Simon Go Back’ was raised.

The police resorted to repressive measures. Thousands of people were beaten up. It was during these demonstrations that the great leader Lala Lajpat Rai, who was popularly known as Sher-i-Punjab, was severely assaulted by the police. He died of the injuries inflicted on him by the police. In Lucknow, Nehru and Govind Ballabh Pant were those who suffered blows of police lathis. The lathi blows crippled Govind Ballabh Pant for life.

In the agitation against the Simon commission, the Indian people once again showed their unity and determination for freedom. They now prepared themselves for a bigger struggle. The congress session at Madras, which was presided over by Dr M.A. Ansari, had passed a resolution which declared the attainment of complete independence as the goal of the Indian people. The resolution was moved by the Nehru and supported by S. Satyamurty. Meanwhile an organisation called the Indian Independence League had been formed to press the demand for complete independence. The league was led by a number of important leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Srinivas Iyenger, Satyamurty and Sarat Chandra Bose, elder brother of Subhas Chandra Bose.

In December 1928, the congress met at Calcutta under the presidency of *Motilal Nehru*. At this session, *Jawaharlal Nehru*, *Subhas Chandra Bose* and many others pressed the congress to demand complete independence. The congress, however, passed a resolution demanding dominion status. This meant less than complete independence. But it was declared that if the dominion status was not granted within one year, the congress would demand complete independence and would launch a mass movement to achieve it. The Indian independence league continued to rally the people behind the demand for complete independence throughout 1929. The mood of the people throughout the country had changed by the time the congress held its next annual session.

Recommendations of Simon Commission

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- Provincial Dyarchy should be abolished and responsibilities of ministers to the provincial legislatures should be enlarged.
- The special power for the safeguarding of province and the protection of minorities comes under the Governor powers.
- The representation of provinces and other areas constituted on the basis of population at the Federal Assembly (at the Centre).
- Recommended Dominion Status for Burma and should be provided its own Constitution.
- Recommended the representation of Council of State could not be chosen on the basis of Direct Election but by Indirect Election through Provincial Council which is more or less just like Modern day election procedure as Proportional Representation.

Conclusion

Simon Commission was constituted under the leadership of Sir John Simon to look into the functioning of the constitutional system in India and suggest changes. It was officially known as ‘Indian Statutory Commission’ and consists of four conservative, two Labourites and one liberal member from the British Parliament. Commission did not have a single Indian member. Hence, at their arrival they greeted with the slogan ‘Go back Simon’. In order to overcome the protest, the viceroy, Lord Irwin announce an offer ‘dominion status’ for India in October AD 1929 and a Round Table Conference to discuss a future constitution.

4.Nehru Report

On February 12, 1928, All Parties Conference called at Delhi attended by the representatives of 29 organizations in response to the appointment of Simon Commission and challenge given by Lord Birkenhead secretary of state for India. It was presided over by M.A Ansari. On May 19, 1928 at its meeting at Bombay, the All Parties Conference appointed a committee with Motilal Nehru as its chairman. The purpose was to consider and determine the principles of the Constitution for India.

Recommendations of Nehru Report

- India should be given Dominion Status with the Parliamentary form of Government with bi-cameral legislature that consists of senate and House of Representatives.
- The senate will comprise of two hundred members elected for seven years, while the House of Representatives should consist of five hundred members elected for five years. Governor-General will act on the advice of executive council. It was to be collectively responsible to the parliament.

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- There should be Federal form of Government in India with Residuary powers to be vested in Centre. There will be no separate electorate for minorities because it awakens communal sentiments therefore it should be scrapped and joint electorate should be introduced”.
- There will be no reserved seats for communities in Punjab and Bengal. However, reservation of Muslim seats could be possible in the provinces where Muslim population should be at least ten percent.
- Judiciary should be independent from the Executive
- There should be 1/4th Muslim Representation at Centre
- Sind should be separated from Bombay provided it proves to be financially self sufficient.

Conclusion

The Nehru Report demanded that the Fundamental Rights for the people of India wouldn't be subjected to forfeiture. The reports had drawn an inspiration from the American bill of rights which laid to the foundation of Fundamental Rights provision in the Indian Constitution.

5. Jinnah's '14 Points'

On December 1928, during all parties meeting Jinnah proposed some amendments on the Nehru Reports. He proposed 'Fourteen Points' for safeguarding the rights and interests of the Muslims in any future constitution of the country.]

Jinnah's Fourteen Demands

- Federal Constitution with residual powers to provinces.
- Provincial autonomy.
- No constitutional amendment by the centre without the concurrence of the states constituting the Indian federation.
- All legislatures and elected bodies to have adequate representation of Muslims in every province without reducing a majority of Muslims in a province to a minority or equality.



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- Adequate representation to Muslims in the services and in self-governing bodies.
- One-third Muslim representation in the Central Legislature.
- In any cabinet at the centre or in the provinces, one- third to be Muslims.
- Separate electorates for Muslims.
- No bill or resolution in any legislature to be passed if three-fourths of a minority community considers such a bill or resolution to be against their interests.
- Any territorial redistribution not to affect the Muslim majority in Punjab, Bengal and NWFP.
- Separation of Sind from Bombay.
- Constitutional reforms in the NWFP and Baluchistan.
- Full religious freedom to all communities.
- Protection of Muslim rights in religion, culture, education and language.

Conclusion

A comparison of the Nehru Report (1928 AD) with Jinnah's fourteen points had a political gap between the Muslims and the Hindus in India. Jinnah's aim was to get more rights for Muslims. It was a constitutional reform plan to safeguard the political rights of Muslims in a self-governing India.

6. August Offer

The Viceroy of India, Lord Linlithgow, issued a statement from Simla on 8 August 1940 in the response of when congress formally ask England to affirm its adherence to the goal of Independence for India which is popularly known August Offer.

Proposals of August's Offer

- The establishment of an advisory war council
- After the war a representative Indian body would be set up to frame a constitution for India.

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- Viceroy's Executive Council would be expanded without delay.
- The minorities were assured that the government would not transfer power “to any system of government whose authority is directly denied by large and powerful elements in Indian national life.”

It was the first time; the inherent right of Indians was recognised through constitutional framing and Congress confessed for the formation of constituent assembly. The Congress rejected the August Offer. Nehru said, “Dominion status concept is dead as a door nail.” Gandhi said that the declaration had widened the gulf between the nationalists and the British rulers. The Muslim League was happy on the veto assurance and states that the solution of political deadlock was only the partition. In the context of widespread dissatisfaction that prevailed over the rejection of the demands made by the Congress, Gandhi at the meeting of the Congress Working Committee in Wardha revealed his plan to launch Individual Civil Disobedience.

Conclusion

August Offer formal statement issued by the Viceroy of India, Lord Linlithgow, that laid the foundation of constitutional framing and Congress confessed for the formation of constituent assembly.

7.Individual Satyagraha

Individual Satyagrah was the resultant of August offer. It was started with the mass Civil Disobedience Movement but M.K Gandhi on Individual Satyagrah. This was movement for not only to seek independence but also to affirm the right of Speech. The Congress once again asked Gandhi to take command towards the end of 1940 and that was lead to a mass struggle with broad strategic perspective.

Aims of individual Satyagraha

To show that nationalist patience was not due to weakness



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- To express people's feeling that they were not interested in the war and that they made no distinction between Nazism and the double autocracy that ruled India.
- To give another opportunity to the Government to accept Congress's demands peacefully.

The demand of the Satyagrahi was using freedom of Speech against the war through an anti-war declaration. If government did not arrest the Satyagrahi, he or she will move repeating it in villages and start march towards Delhi (“**Delhi Chalo Movement**”). The centrepiece of Individual Satyagraha was non-violence which could be achieved only selecting the Satyagrahis. Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Brahma Dutt were the first, second and third the selected Satyagrahi respectively.

Conclusion

Hence, Individual Satyagrah was the outcome of August Offer to adhere the taste of freedom and was movement for not only to seek independence but also to affirm the right of Speech.

8.Rajagopalachari Formula (1944 AD)

The objectives of Rajagopalachari Formula were to bridges between the Muslims League and Indian National Congress arises due to the difference of opinion on two nation theory and independence of India from British. C. Rajagopalachari was the veteran Congress leader, made a formula for the Indian National Congress and Muslim League cooperation to write off the political deadlock. Formula was supported by M.K Gandhi which was in reality, a silent acceptance of the League's demand for Pakistan.

Rajagopalachari's Formula

Muslim League to support the demand for independence of Congress.

- League to cooperate with Congress in forming a provisional government at centre.
- At the end of the War, a commission would be appointed to demarcate the districts having a Muslim population in absolute majority and in elections to be conducted in those areas (including the non-Muslims) on basis of adult suffrage whether or not to form a separate sovereign state.



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- All parties would be allowed to express their stand on the partition and their views before the voting or election.
- In case of acceptance of partition, agreement to be made jointly for safeguarding defence, commerce, communications, etc.
- The above terms to be operative only if England transferred full powers to India.

Conclusion

The basic concepts of Rajagopalachari Formula was to engulf the gap between the Muslims League and Indian National Congress arises due to the difference of opinion on two nation theory and independence of India from British.

9.Cripps Mission

In early 1942, the war situation compelled the British to open talks with the Indian leaders. The British forces had suffered heavy defeats at the hands of the Japanese army in many countries of south-east Asia. The Japanese also conducted air raids on some parts of India. At this time Sir Stafford Cripps, a British minister, came to India to hold talks with Indian leaders. This is known as the Cripps mission. The talks, however, failed. The British were not willing to agree to the formation of a truly national government. They also tried to promote the interests of the princes. While they agreed to the demand for a constituent assembly, they insisted that the Indian states in the assembly would be represented by the nominees of the princes, and that the people of the states would have no representation on it.

Proposals of Cripps Mission

An Indian Union with a dominion status; would be set up; it would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth and free to participate in the United Nations and other international bodies.



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- After the end of the war, a constituent assembly would be convened to frame a new constitution. Members of this assembly would be partly elected by the provincial assemblies through proportional representation and partly nominated by the princes.
- The British Government would accept the new constitution only on the following conditions : (a) any province not willing to join the Union could have a separate constitution and form a separate Union, and (b) the new constitution-making body and the British Government would negotiate a treaty to effect the transfer of power and to safeguard racial and religious minorities.
- The post of governor-general's would remain intact and defence of India would remain in British hands.

Conclusion

Hence, Mission was sent to seek the full support of Indian to the British in Second World War. So, Stafford Cripps returned home leaving behind a frustrated and embittered Indian people, who, though still sympathising with the victims of Fascist aggression, felt that the existing situation in the country had become intolerable and that the time had come for a final assault on imperialism.

10.Desai - Liaquat Proposals (AD 1945)

M.K Gandhi convinced that the British rulers would not grant independence to India unless and until the Congress and Muslim League reach some conclusion on the future of the Country or the immediate formation of the Interim National Government. Hence, Gandhi directed Bhulabhai Jivanji Desai to make another attempt to appease the league leaders and find a way out of the 1942-45 political deadlocks.

Desai being the leader of the Congress in the Central Assembly and a friend of Liaquat Ali (Leader of Muslim League), met him in January 1945 gave him proposals for the formation of Interim Government at centre. After Desai's declaration, Liaquat Ali published the list of an agreement which given below:

- Nomination of equal number of persons by both in the Central Executive.
- Representation of the minorities in particular of the Schedule caste and the Sikhs.



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- The government was to be formed and was to function with the framework of the existing Government of India Act, 1935.

Conclusion

M.K Gandhi's attempt to resolve the political deadlock by persuading Bhulabhai Jivanji Desai to make an attempt to appease the league leaders, but the proposal were not formally endorsed either by the Congress or the League.

11.Wavell Plan and Shimla Conference

Lord Wavell who had succeeded Lord Linlithgow as Governor-General in October, 1943, made a way out from the existing stalemate the deadlock in India. He went to England for consultations in March 1945. He broadcast to the people of India the proposals of the British Government to resolve the deadlock in India on 14th June which is called Wavell Plan. It is also known as Breakdown Plan.

Provision of Wavell Plan

Formation of a new Executive Council at the centre in which all the members except the Viceroy and the Commander in Chief would be Indian.

- All portfolios except Defence were to be under the control of Indian members.
- In the Proposed Executive Council which was to have 14 members, the Muslims who constituted only about 25 % of the total population were given the right to be over represented by selecting 6 representatives.

The Congress while objecting the demand asserted its rights to select the representative of any community, including Muslims, as the Congress nominees to the Council.

Shimla Conference

- Lord Wavell invited a conference of 21 Indian Political leaders at the Summer Capital British India to discuss the provision of Wavell Plan.

The Wavell Plan convened to agree for Indian self-government which incorporated separate representation to Muslims and reduced majority powers for both communities in their majority regions.

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- Discussion was stuck at a point of selection of Muslim representatives. Jinnah said that no non-league Muslim should be represented to the Executive Council because only Muslim League has right to represent the Muslims of India whereas Congress said that they had no right to nominate any Muslim in the Executive council.
- Wavell had given place to 6 Muslims in the Executive Council of 14, and British had given it the power of Veto to any constitutional proposal which was not in its interest. But Muslims represented only 25% of Indian Population. Thus, these unreasonable demands were rejected by Congress. The Muslim league did not relent and Wavell dropped the plan.

Conclusion

Wavell Plan was constituted to resolve the political deadlock of existing India but he abandon the proposals due to disagreement between leaders of Muslim League and Congress, and finally the proposals were dissolved at the Shimla Conference.

12.Cabinet Mission Plan: Impact & Purpose

On 22nd January 1946, the decision to send Cabinet Mission was taken and on 19th February 1946, the British PM C.R Attlee Government announced in the House of Lords about the mission and the plan to quit India. A high-powered mission of three British Cabinet members- Lord Pethick-Lawrence, the Secretary of State for India, Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade, and A. V. Alexander, the First Lord of the Admiralty reached Delhi on 24th March 1946.

Proposals of Mission

- The Mission proposed to secure an agreement on the method of framing the Constitution to the discussions with elected representatives of British India and the Indian states on Preceding and preparing.
- Proposes to set up a constitution body
- Proposes to set up an Executive Council with the support of the main Indian parties.

Purpose of the Mission

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- To resolve political deadlock between the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League at their stance to prevent a communal dispute whether British India would be better-off unified or divided.
- The Congress party wanted to obtain a strong central government with more powers as compared to state governments.
- All India Muslim League under Jinnah wanted to keep India united but with political safeguards provided to Muslims such as ‘guarantee’ of ‘parity’ in the legislatures.
- On 16 May 1946, this plan was announced and preceded by Shimla Conference of 1945.

Recommendations of Mission

- The unity of India had to be retained.
- It proposed a very loose union of all the Indian territories under a centre that would control merely defence, the Foreign Affairs and the Communication. The Union would have the powers necessary to raise the finances to manage these subjects.
- All subjects other than Union subjects and residuary power would vest in the provinces of British India.
- The Princely Legislatures would then elect a Constituent Assembly or a Constitution making body with each province being allotted a specified number of seats proportionate to its population.
- The proposed Constituent Assembly was to consist was to consist of 292 member from British India and 93 from Indian States.
- The Mission proposed an immediate formation of Interim Government at the centre, enjoying the support of major political parties and with the Indians holding all the portfolios.

Conclusion

The main objective of Cabinet Mission was to find out ways and means for the peaceful transfer of power in India, to suggest measures for the formation of a Constitution making machinery and also to set up the Interim Government.



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