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Q) GOI Act 1935 gave autonomy to provinces but it was not enough to fulfil the desires of Indians. Discuss

Answer)

The evolution of the provincial legislative council can be seen from the year 1861 onwards.

- In 1861, Council Act provincial legislative council was formed in Bombay and Madras but no power was given
- In 1892 Council Act, indirect election happened but still no power was given
- Then Morley Minto Reforms 1909 came with no major changes. Only seats were increased.
- Demand by Congress and Muslim League in Lucknow Pact, forced government to give Dyarchy in 1919
- GOI Act, instead of representative government at provincial level, but most of the power was in the reserved subjects under Governor and his council.

Then the GOI Act of 1935, came which removed the dyarchy in the provinces and gave provincial autonomy. In the provincial autonomy following features were present

- 1) Provinces were granted autonomy and the Governor is supposed to report to the British crown.
- 2) Provinces were given independent financial powers and resources.

- 3) Provincial government could borrow money of their own security.
  - 4) Separate electorates based on communal Award, were to be made operational.
  - 5) All members were to be directly elected. Franchise was extended, women given same powers as men.
  - 6) Provincial legislature could legislate on subjects in provincial and concurrent list.
- But his features were not able to convince the Indians because of the presence of following negative aspects of GOA Act 1935 in the provinces.
- 1) Governor to have special power regarding minorities, rights of civil servants, law and order.
  - 2) Governor could take over and indefinitely run administration.
  - 3) 40% of the budget was still not votable.
  - 4) Governor could refuse assent to a bill, pass ordinances and enact governor's Act.
  - 5) Only 14% can vote which was very less.
  - 6) There were no features of complete independence which was decided in 1929 Lahore session.
  - 7) Act provided a rigid constitution and only can be amended by the British parliament.
  - 8) Provincial autonomy could create powerful provincial leaders in the long run which will hamper the central leadership of the congress.

The WOI Act 1935 was rejected by the Congress because of the above mentioned drawbacks. Increasing the separate electorates further increased the chances for disintegration of India. The Congress demanded constituent Assembly election on the basis of universal adult franchise to frame <sup>constitution</sup> constituent of India.

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Very Good  
Subtopic  
This time - very  
well written answer.

PLUTUS IAS