

Q) Government of India Act, 1935 gave autonomy to provinces, but it was not enough to fulfill the desires of Indians. Discuss.

A) - Government of India Act, 1919 also known as the Montford Reforms. This Act relaxed the central control over the provinces by demarcating the central and provincial subjects. The provincial subject is further divided into Transferred and reserved subjects. The Bicameralism and direct elections and Preamble was introduced for the 1st time. This are the some of the demands under of Indians under Lucknow Pact.

- In 1927, Simon Commission was formed to view the functioning of the GOI Act 1919, and to frame the constitution for Indians, this was highly opp and No Indian was included in the Commission so this was opposed by the Indians, so the Viceroy Lord Birkenhead had challenged Indians to prepare the Constitution and show, then the Nehru committee was formed under the chairmanship of Motilal Nehru.

- The Government decided to hold a Round Table conference in London in Nov 1930 to consider the constitutional reforms. It was followed by two more such conferences.

- After three Round table conferences, the British Government published a white paper in March 1933 containing the outline of the ~~India~~ new constitution.

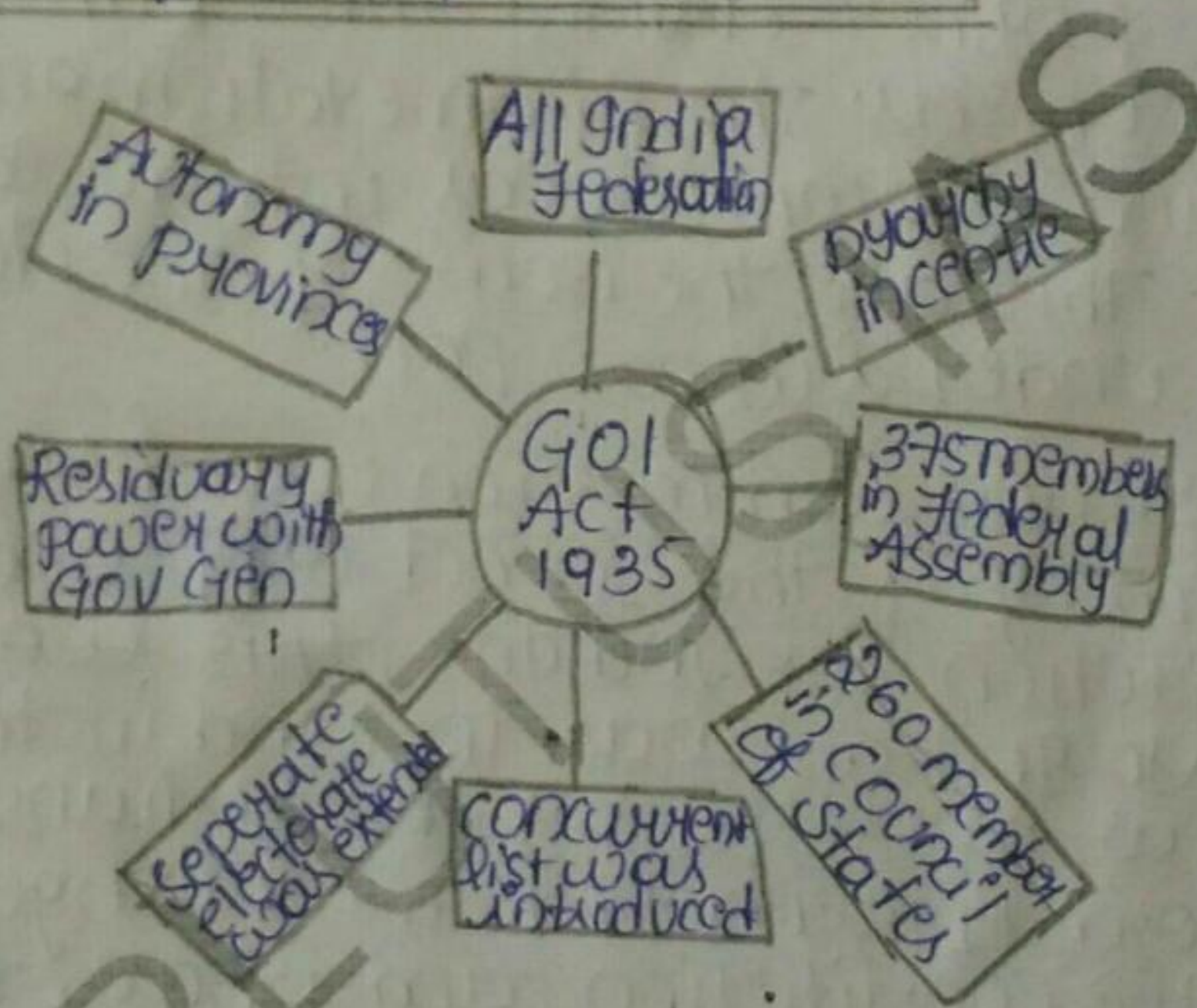
- On the basis of this Report, a bill was prepared which was introduced in the British Parliament on Dec 19, 1934. After its having been passed by the two Houses and the Royal assent being given to it on Aug 4, 1935, it became the GOI Act, 1935.

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- Government of India Act, 1935: GOI Act, 1935 marked the 2nd milestone towards a completely responsible Govt of India. It ended Diarchy and provided the establishment of All India Federation. This Act is based on 'joint select committee report' led by Lord Linlithgow. This act

⇒ Features of the GOI Act, 1935:



⇒ Importance of the Act:

- Autonomy was given to the provinces
- ~~system of~~ established the federal courts.
- Establishment of the federal public service commission.
- 14% of the population was given the right to vote.
- Federal railway Authority was set up Indian ~~the~~ railway.

But the above mentioned points couldn't of the provincial Autonomy couldn't fulfill the following desires of the Indians. They are;

- Huge population was still not having right to vote.
- separate electorate was extended.

- There were several special powers given to the Governor General.

- The constitution was made rigid.

⇒ Response of Indians:

- This act was rejected by the congress, because they wanted a constituent assembly on the basis of Adult Franchise.
- Muslim League also rejected the Act, because the 14 demands of Jinnah were not met.
- But Hindu Mahasabha was in favour of the Act, because at least provincial autonomy was given.

The Govt of India Act, 1935 was the lengthiest Act that was made before the year 1935. The Nehru called this act as, "a charter of slavery" and Jinnah called it as "humiliating". This act played a key role in drafting the constitution of India, 1950. Though this act proposed many salient features such as the creation of All India Federation, provincial autonomy etc; it failed to fulfill the needs/ desires of all Indians.

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