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Qus- Government of India (GOI) Act 1935 gave autonomy to provinces, but it was not enough to fulfill the desire of Indians.
Discuss.

Ans- Amidst the struggle of 1932, The Third Round Table Conference was held between Nov 17, 1932 — Dec 24, 1932, and was not attended by INC and Gandhi. It was ignored by most other Indian leaders. The recommendations were published in a white paper in March 1933 and debated in the British parliament. Outcome of which was GOI Act 1935, and was passed in Aug 1935.

Main provisions:-

- (i) Autonomy in provinces
- (ii) All India Federation
- (iii) Dyarchy in Centre.
- (iv) 375 members Federal Assembly.
- (v) 260 members Council of States.
- (vi) Concurrent list introduction.
- (vii) Separate electorate extended.
- (viii) Residuary power was with Governor General.

Provincial Autonomy:-

• With regard to provinces, the act was an improvement in the existing position. According to it, The ministers of all provincial governments, were to be responsible to the legislature.

• The powers of legislature were increased.

• The act divided the powers between the centre and units in the form of 3 lists -

- (i) Federal list (for centre - 59 items)
- (ii) Provincial list (for provinces - 54 items)
- (iii) Concurrent list (for both - 36 items)

the residuary powers were with the viceroy.

But the federation never came into being as princely states did not join.

- The provinces were allowed to act as autonomous units of administration in their definite spheres. The Governor was required to act with the advice of ministers responsible to the provincial legislature.
- Established the Federal Public Service Commission, Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission.

Demerits : - *But the claims of Indians were not fulfilled.*

- In certain important matters, like police, the government had the authority.
- The Governor General and Governor's appointment was in the hands of British Crown so mainly they were not responsible to the legislature.
- The abolition of Dyarchy at the Provinces were followed only from 1937 - 39.
- In the bicameralism feature also, many restrictions were placed.
- There was no bill of rights which could give people right in case of any unjust done to them.
- The special powers were given to Governor General & Governor.
- Only 14% population have right to vote, then how the provincial government would be responsible, as the major section have no right to vote.

No doubt the act was in the favour of provinces because major part of the act was taken after the Independence, in making of the Constitution but was not enough for such diverse population and diverse government.