

Q. GoI Act 1935 gave autonomy to provinces, but it was not enough to fulfil the desire of Indians. Discuss.

In pursuit of weakening the national movement using carrot and stick policy, the British government periodically brought up reforms. Discontent after Morley-Minto reforms 1909 and Montford reforms 1919, exploded against Simon Commission 1927. In response to Lord Birkenhead's challenge, the Nehru report expressed the Indian demand of constitution. However, after deliberation on Simon commission reports in the 3 round table conferences, the British government came up with Government of India Act 1935.

Provision of provincial autonomy giving more power to provinces directly under British crown gained support for the act from Hindu Mahasabha. However, nearly all sections in India dissented the act. Major parties like Congress and Muslim League unanimously rejected it, deeming it "a charter of slavery" because:

(i) The act provided for 14% franchise which was very low.

Best Intro till now

Good

- (ii) Special powers conferred to governors and governor-generals impeded positive functioning of the act.
- (iii) Extension of separate electorate broadened rift in Indians which later led to the partition.
- (iv) Provision of rigid constitution reserved amendment rights with British Parliament only.

As described by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, "the act was like a car with all brakes and ~~no engine~~". Amidst the discontent the act also had some positive reforms like strengthening of federalism, establishment of institutions like RBI, too.

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Word Limit - 200

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Otherwise very good
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Q. Write a short note on Dharsana Incident.

Irwin's 1929 declaration of goal of dominion status without timeline in response to Nehru report agitated Indians. In the Lahore session of 1929, the goal of congress was set as "Poorna Swaraj". On similar lines Gandhiji ~~started~~ started civil disobedience movement with Dandi March on 12 March 1930.

→ Gandhiji announced a raid on Dharsana salt works owned by British government in May 1930.

→ Upon his arrest, Kasturba, Gandhi and Abbas Tyabji took leadership.

→ The resolve of Indians stood strong, as after their arrest, Sarojini Naidu and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad led the raid.

→ The brutal lathicharge on a non-violent raid gained criticism to British government. Reporter Webb Miller played a key role in reporting the incident in international media.

This was one of the most brutal repressions by British administration but Indians ~~showed~~ proved themselves true Satyagrahis. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "A satyagrahi has infinite patience, abundant faith in others & ample hope"

