

4th Semester

Political Science - IV (First Paper)

Full Marks - 80

Imperial Rule in India
British India began from
1-11-1858 and continued
to 14-8-1947.

Total number of Major Acts - 8

1) The Government of India Act, 1858

2) The Indian Councils Act, 1861

3) The Indian Councils Act, 1892.

4) The Indian Councils Act, 1909

- Popularly known as ~~the~~ Morley

- Minto Reforms.

5) The Govt of India Act, 1919.

- Renowned ~~as~~ for Montague

Chelmsford Reforms.

[Gonsalves - Govt]

- Diarchy system in Provin-

cial legislation

(Legislation) Level.

6) The Govt of India Act, 1935

- Notable for - Dyarchy at the centre

- Bicameral and Enlarged Legislature
(ie, ~~Bica~~ Bicameralism). (Legislatures)

Provincial Autonomy

(8) The Indian Independence Act, 1947, and the salient features of the Indian constitution. Other matters are-

- 1) The Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946
- 2) Jinnah's Fourteen Point Formula
- 3) Simon Commission
- 4) Round Table Conference
- 5) Swaraj
- 6) Poona Pact
- 7) Communal Award
- 8) Election Commission
- 9) Nagar Palika system.
- 10) Panchayat System in West-Bengal
- 11) Municipal Corporation.
- 12) Constituent Assembly.

Reasons

(i) The Indian ^{constitution} is the longest, Bulkier and the most Detailed of all the constitutions in the world. (ii) The Indian constitution is flexible as well as rigid. ✓

Ques:

Object and reasons for the passing of the Govt of India Act, 1858.

Reasons:

The British Period begins with the advent (i.e. coming or arrival) of East India Company in India in the year 1600. In 1857 a popular revolt (so called Sepoy Mutiny) (झूलत फौज) against the East India Company

(company's) rule took place when the people of India made a valiant to secure freedom from (दर्शन-मं) = showing courage or determination

foreign's rule. The attempt, unfortunately, failed to be successful. It however, gave the British Crown an opportunity to replace the East India Company's rule by its direct rule over India. For this purpose the British Parliament passed the Govt of India Act, 1858 for the better Govt in India.

On 1st November 1858 a 'Royal Proclamation' was ^{holding the status of king or queen} (announce officially or publicly)

issued by the Queen of England (i.e. Her Majesty Queen) of England by which the company's (i.e. East India company's) Government

b) 1946-1950 - Indians' prosperity will be our strength in their contentment our security and their gratitude is thankfulness ~~and~~ ~~our best~~ ~~reward~~ (rewards) ~~our best~~ ~~reward~~ was transferred to the British.

Crown and promised to run
 the Indian Administration
 for the Welfare of Indian
 subjects. The proclamation had
 a great Constitutional impor-
 tance from the historical point
 of view, as it was end the Com-
 pany's rule in India and begin-
 ning of another era (231) (1858
 age) of direct rule of the British
 Crown.

So, the Govt of India Act, 1858 is a great landmark in the Constitutional History of India.

Object of the Act:

3) The need of transfer of the Govt of India to the Crown.

ii) For the better ^{Govt in/for} of India
it was need/ designed to transfer
(intend for a purpose)
the control over the Govt of India
from the East India Company to
the Crown

ii) For giving share in the highest service of the state, if so qualified.

What were the main features of the Govt of India Act,

1858,

The Govt of India Act, 1858 was called the Act for the better government of India. It was designed to contrive to ~~to transfer~~ to transfer the control over the Govt of India from the East India Company to the ^{British} Crown (British Crown).

(1) The British Crown had taken over the power to own the property of the company and its defence forces, i.e., Military and Naval forces were brought under the control and command of the British Crown. The revenue collected in India, was not to be utilized for preventing ~~invasion~~ and military opera-

tions without the prior approval of the British Parliament. The Govt of India Act, 1858 provided that India would be ruled under the authority of the British Crown. The affairs of India would be controlled and executed by the Secretary of State on behalf of the British crown. Prior to the Act of 1858 the legislative and executive powers were vested in the company (E.I.C) through the Governor-General and Council.

Next Part
↓

However, a Council of India was established to render aid and ~~advice~~ assistance to the Secretary of State. The Council of India consisted of fifteen members, in whom the British Crown appointed eight members and the Court of Directors elected seven members. ^{② The salary of the Secretary of State and his establishment was changed on Indian revenues.}

(2) The Board of Control and the Court of Directors

(2) The Govt of India Act, 1858 abolished the Court of Directors and the Board of Control two important organs of the Company which were controlling Indian affairs so far and provided that India henceforth was to be governed by and in the name of Her Majesty Queen of England.

(3) The Secretary of State for India was to be the President of the Indian Council. He was given a vote and a casting vote in the case of a tie.

4) The Act of 1858 transferred the Govt of India to the hands of the British ~~Crown~~ Parliament and the latter acquired full, formal and legal control over Indian affairs.

P.T.O

(5) The Secretary of State-in-Council was regarded as a body corporate, therefore, ~~it could~~ could sue or be sued in India as well as in England by name of the Secretary of State-in-Council.

(6) All natural born Englishmen were eligible to apply for admission in civil service examination to the competitive examination. The Secretary of State-in-Council of India could admit the successful candidates in civil service with the advice of the British Crown. Similar procedure was provided for cadetship in military and naval force. The name of candidates to be recommended for cadetship and defence service were to be submitted to the British Crown by the Secretary of State. He was given all powers to frame regulations for the purpose of appointments and admission to the defence service and civil service.

(7) Every year the Secretary of State was to present to the House of Commons a report on the moral and material progress of India.

8) All the treaties and revenues were transferred to the crown of England.

(9) Assurance was given that due respect shall be paid to the rights, dignity and honour of the Indian princes.

(10) The Crown of England would protect the ^{the right} freedom of religion of all persons residing in the crown's territories in India.

(11) Customs of India would be given due recognition in the settlement of disputes amongst the natives.

(12) ** The proclamation ended with the words "in their prosperity will be our strength, in their contentment our security and in their gratitude our best rewards."

Contentment = સુખ / સંતોષ
= happiness or satisfaction

Prosperity = ઉન્નતિ / સમૃદ્ધિ / (સિદ્ધિ)

gratitude = thankfulness = કૃતજ્ઞતા
/ appreciation of kindness.

8 marks

L.H.B-16

~~Q What were the effects of the Act of 1858?~~ ^{importance (i.e., result)} and also mention the [^]defects of the Act.
[effects = change which is a result of an action.
/ bringing about a result)

~~Ans:~~

What were the [^]significance i.e., importance (having great effect / [^]great value) of the Act of 1858. What were its defects?

Ans: 1) The ~~full~~ effect / importance of the Act of 1858 here as follows: 1) The British Parliament passed the Govt of India Act, 1858, for the better government in India. It was designed to transfer the control over the Govt of India from the Company (i.e. East India Company) to the British Crown.

2) ~~The Board of Control~~
a) It abolished the Court of Directors and the Board of Control, two important organs of the Company (E.I.C) which were controlling Indian affairs so far and provided that India henceforth was to be governed by and in the name of Her Majesty, the Queen. Queen Victoria was the Queen of England at that time.

- 3) The company's territories, with their revenues and administration were taken over by the British Crown. Thus, India was transferred from the company to the British Crown.
- 4) The Board of control also disappeared. The Act created a Secretary of state for India to look after the administration of India on behalf of the British Parliament.
- 5) The Secretary of state for India was to be the President of the Indian Council. He was given a vote and a casting vote in the case of a tie.
- 6) The Act created an Indian Council of fifteen members. Seven of them were to be elected by the Court of Directors and the remaining eight were to be appointed by the Crown.
- 7) Under this Act, Governor-General also became the Viceroy. One and the same person held the two offices i.e., as a Governor-General he dealt with British Provinces (During that time total number of Provinces were eleven) and as a Viceroy he dealt with native states (notably, during that time total number of native states were 672).

- 8) All the treaties were transferred to the crown of England.
- 9) Control over the civil and military servants of the crown was given to the Indian Council.
- 10) The Council was a 'moral check' on the Secretary of State.
(Pardo Siza (1321))
- 11) Assurance was given that due respect shall be paid to the rights, dignity and honour of the Indian Princes.
- 12) The Crown of England would protect the freedom of the rights of religion of all the persons residing in the Crown's territories in India.
- 13) Customs of India would be given due recognition in the settlement of disputes amongst the natives.
- 14) The proclamation also stated that all the appointments in the Crown's service will be made on the basis of ability, integrity and without discrimination. Appointments would be made strictly and in their educational qualifications.

* 15) The proclamation ended with the words "in their prosperity will be our strength, in their contentment our security and in their gratitude our best rewards".

* 16) The Govt of India Act, 1858 is a great landmark in the constitutional history of India. According to G.N. Singh, "the passing of the Govt of India Act, 1858 closed one great period of history and ushered in another great era, the direct rule of the crown".

* 17) Dr Bhalchandra Deo says, "To the people of India, the proclamation brought a heaven to earth. It promised them peace and prosperity, protection of their religion, equality of treatment with other subjects of the Queen and above all promised to them a share in the highest services of the state, if qualified". So the Act undoubtedly was a landmark in the constitutional history of India.

P. T. O

Defects / Demerits / Short
coming / imperfection /
on lack of the Act of 1858.

Ans. Indians were not bene-
fited from the transfer of the
Govt and revenues of India from
the Company (EIC) to the Crown
(Crown) of England. The Keenness
(i.e., eager and enthusiastic)
was 1st / 2nd / 3rd

of the British Parliament to know
about was great during Company's
rule, but it subsided (i.e.,
go down to a lower or the
normal level i.e. became less strong)

With the appoint of the Secre-
tary of State to run the ad-
ministration of India. The
British Parliament "had full
faith in the Secretary for
India and the Viceroy of India"
it began to approve and justify
all their actions. The provision

regarding the payment of the
Salary of the Secretary of State
for India and the establishment
out of the Indian revenues was
solely in the British interest,
so it was greatly resented
by the Indians.

(i.e., feel bitter or angry about
2nd / 3rd / 4th)

lastly, The Govt of India Act, 1858, did not introduce any change in the Constitution of the Govt of India. An additional title of "Viceroy"

was conferred on the Governor (गवर्नर जनरल)

non-General of India (notably,

Lord Canning, who was the Governor-General of India, became the first Viceroy of India). It was to enhance

the dignity and prestige of

the Governor-General ^{as} the

personal representative of the British Crown.

Q What are the Provisions of the Govt of India Act, 1858?

Ans: The main provisions of the Act of 1858 were as follows:

1) Taking over the Indian administration by the British crown: The Act provided that India henceforth was to be governed by and in the name of Her Majesty the Queen of England. It chan-

ged the designation of the Governor-General to "The Viceroy of India".

Thence forward = ~~from that time on~~ ^(From that time on date)
Hence forth = From this time on
from that time on P-77

Governor-General and Viceroy was the same person. When he dealt with the British Provinces, he was known as Governor-General but when he dealt with Indian states, he was called Viceroy because he acted as Crown's representative in that capacity. It also provided for the transfer of military (military) and naval forces of the Company to the Crown.

The Govt of India Act 1858 abolished the Court of Directors and the Board of Control, two important organs of the Company (F.G.C) which were controlling Indian affairs so far and provided that ~~India~~ ^{henceforth} ~~was~~ ^{be} thence forward India would

be governed (i.e. was to be governed) by and in the name of Her Majesty, the Queen.

- 2) Secretary of State for India and his Council: The Act created a Secretary of State for India to look after the administration of India on behalf of the British Parliament. A Council of 15 members known as Indian Council was set up to assist the Secretary of State in discharging his duties.

Out of the 15 members, 8 were to be appointed by the crown, and the rest 7 members were to be elected by the Court of Directors. The salary of the Secretary of State and his establishment was charged on Indian Revenues (revenues).

- 3) The Secretary of State was to be the President of the Council. He had the casting vote in case of equality of votes. The Council was to meet at least once in a week. Its quorum was five.
- 4) The Council of India had the financial veto power.
- 5) The Act constituted the Secretary of State in Council as a body corporate, capable of suing and being sued in India and England.
- 6) The Council of the Secretary of State emerged as a purely consultative body rather than a controlling agency.
- 7) Every order was to be signed by the Secretary of State, and all despatches for the Govt of India were to be addressed to him.

8) Secretary of State for India was also given power to frame rules and regulations for recruitment to Indian Civil Service.

9) The Secretary of State was empowered to send and receive secret despatches from the General of India, without having the necessity of communicating them to the members of his Council. He could also send urgent despatches to India without first (first) referring them to the Council. But he must satisfy the Council for his actions.

10) The Council has a 'moral check' (एक नैतिक जाँच) On 'moral check' means concerned with the principles of right and wrong behaviour. / on or relating to principles or consideration of right and wrong action or good or bad character. / (1) - 2-2-20

→ On Secretary of State.

11) The Secretary of State stood 'second' next to the 'Crown' in affairs of the Govt of India. The Act made the Secretary of State all in all.

12) Assurance was given that due respect shall be paid to the rights, dignity and honour of the Indian Princes.

Integrity = ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତତା (ସଂଗତ) ଅଞ୍ଚଳ

P-80

13) The Crown of England would protect the freedom of the right of religion of all the persons residing in the Crown's territories in India.

4) Customs of India would be given due recognition in the settlement of disputes amongst the natives.

15) The proclamation also stated that all the appointments in the Crown's service will be made on the basis of ability, integrity, efficacy and without discrimination.

~~efficacy~~ efficacy

(ଆକାର/କ୍ଷମା)

(i.e., able to produce the intended result)

Appointments would be made strictly on the basis of educational qualifications.

16) The proclamation gave assurance to the Indian Princes that no extension of territories would
(କୌଣସି ନୂଆ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯିବ ନାହିଁ)

be undertaken by the Crown in future. The right of adoption was
ନିଷେଧ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା

given to the Indian Princes and the policy of annexation of

the states under 'the doctrine of lapse' was done away. Thus

(ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତତା ଓ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତତା ନିଷେଧ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଅଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ନୀତିରୁ ବଞ୍ଚାଇ ଦିଆଯାଇଥିଲା)

Viceroy = Governor acting in the name of a King = 219 210 211

P-81

They were assured of their States territories.

17) The proclamation ended with the words "in their prosperity will be our strength, in their contentment our contentment, in their security and in their gratitude our best rewards".

The assumption of the Govt of India by the crown was proclaimed to the people of India at Allahabad by Lord Canning, the First Viceroy and Governor-General in India.

This 'Royal Proclamation' was known as 'Magna Carta' of

Indian Liberties. ~~This 25 year rule of East India Company (from 1600 to 1858)~~

* Magna Carta means The Great

Charter (ie, written grant of rights, privileges, titles etc issued by a sovereign or legislature) of Liberties, ~~rather~~

enumerating a number of principles e.g., "to none will we sell, to none will we deny or delay right of justice."

Path = a course of action P-82

3. ~~Act~~ ~~was~~ ushered in another great era - the direct rule of the Crown. ~~Elucidate it~~
To the people of India,

the proclamation brought a heaven to earth. It promised them peace and prosperity, protection of their religion, equality of treatment with other subjects of the Queen and

above all promised to them a share in the highest services of the State if qualified.

Lastly, the Govt of India Act, 1858 is a great landmark in the constitutional history of India. The passing of the Govt of India Act, 1858 closed one great period of history and ushered in another great era, (the direct rule of the Crown).
→ ~~after curricular~~ (ie. show or guide somewhere)

Ques: Describe the main reasons and Object for the passing of the Govt of India Act, 1858, Or Why did the British Parliament introduce the Govt of India Act, 1858?

What were the main features of the Govt of India Act, 1858? / Provisions

What were the effects (ie, importance / significance / defects ie, imperfection / shortcoming) of the Act of 1858? / Provisions

For Project work -
Q The Govt of India Act, 1858 is a great landmark in the constitutional history of India, it closed one great period of Indian history and