

I: REGULATING ACT, 1773 AND PITTS INDIA ACT, 1784

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Regulating Act, 1773

- ▶ First Constitutional reform.
- ▶ To regularize the Company servant the act was passed.
- ▶ It laid the foundation of central administration in India.

Features

- ▶ Designated Governor of Bengal became Governor General of Bengal and created Executive Council of Four members to assist him. (First Governor General of Bengal was Warren Hastings).
- ▶ Made governors of Bombay and Madras presidencies subordinate to the GG of Bengal.
- ▶ Establishment of Supreme Court at Calcutta in 1774, with one chief justice and three judges (Elijah Empay was the 1st Justice).
- ▶ Prohibits the Company servants engaging private trade and accepting presents or bribe from the natives.
- ▶ British government appointed Court of Directors to report on its revenue, civil and military affairs in India.

Pitt's India Act, 1784

Provisions of the Act

For political matters, the Board of Control was created and for commercial affairs, the Court of Directors was appointed.

- The Board of Control took care of civil and military affairs. It comprised of 6 people:
 - Secretary of State (Board President)
 - Chancellor of the Exchequer
 - Four Privy Councillors
- In this dual system of control, the company was represented by the Court of Directors and the British government by the Board of Control.
- The act mandated that all civil and military officers disclose their property in India and Britain within two months of their joining.
- The Governor-General's council's strength was reduced to three members. One of the three would be the Commander-in-Chief of the British Crown's army in India.
- The Governor-General was given the right of veto.
- The Presidencies of Madras and Bombay became subordinate to the Bengal Presidency. In effect, Calcutta became the capital of the British possessions in India.

Features of the Act

- This act made a distinction between the commercial and political activities of the East India Company.
- For the first time, the term 'British possessions in India' was used.
- This act gave the British government direct control over Indian administration.

- The Company became subordinate to the British government unlike as in the previous Regulating Act of 1773, where the government only sought to ‘regulate’ matters and not take over.
- This act established the British Crown’s authority in the civil and military administration of its Indian territories. Commercial activities were still a monopoly of the Company.

II: CHARTER ACTS (1813, 1833 & 1853)

Charter Act, 1813

Background

- Due to Napoleon Bonaparte’s Continental System in Europe (which prohibited the import of British goods into French allies in Europe), British traders and merchants suffered.
- So they demanded they be given a share in the British trade in Asia and dissolve the monopoly of the East India Company.
- The company objected to this.
- Finally, British merchants were allowed to trade in India under a strict licensing system under the Charter Act of 1813.
- But in trade with China and the tea trade, the company still retained its monopoly.

Provisions of the Act.

- This Act asserted the Crown’s sovereignty over British possessions in India.
- The company’s rule was extended to another 20 years. Their trade monopoly was ended except for the trade in tea, opium, and with China.
- It empowered the local governments to tax people subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- The company’s dividend was fixed at 10.5%.
- The Act gave more powers for the courts in India over European British subjects.
- Another important feature of this act was to grant permission to the missionaries to come to India and engage in religious proselytization. The missionaries were successful in getting the appointment of a Bishop for British India with his headquarters at Calcutta in the provisions of the Act.
- The act provided for a financial grant towards the revival of Indian literature and the promotion of science.
- The company was also to take up a greater role in the education of the Indians under them. It was to set.

Charter Act, 1833

Provisions of the Act

India became a British colony

- The Governor-General of Bengal was re-designated as the Governor-General of India. This made Lord William Bentinck the first Governor-General of India.
- Thus, the country’s administration was unified under one control.
- The Governors of Bombay and Madras lost their legislative powers.

- The Governor-General had legislative powers over entire British India.
- The Governor-General in council had the authority to amend, repeal or alter any law pertaining to all people and places in British Indian territories whether British, foreign or Indian native.
- The civil and military affairs of the company were controlled by the Governor-General in council.
- The Governor-General's council was to have four members. The fourth member had limited powers only.
- For the first time, the Governor-General's government was called Government of India and the council was called India Council.

Indian Law Commission

- The act mandated that any law made in India was to be put before the British Parliament and was to be called 'Act'.
- As per the act, an Indian Law Commission was established.
- The first Law Commission had Lord Macaulay as its chairman.
- It sought to codify all Indian law.

Split in Bengal Presidency

- The act provided for the Presidency of Bengal to be divided into the Presidencies of Agra and Fort William.
- But this never came into effect.

Indians in Government service

- This was the first act that gave permission for Indians to have a share in the country's administration.
- It stated that merit should be the basis of employment to government service and not birth, colour, religion or race.

Slavery

- The act provided for the mitigation of slavery existing in India at that time.
- The British Parliament abolished slavery in Britain and all its possessions in 1833.

Tilt towards Christianity

- Since the number of British residents in the country was increasing, the act allowed for having three Bishops in India.
- It also sought to regulate the establishment of Christian institutions in India.

Charter Act, 1853

Provisions of the Act

- **Governor-General's office**
 1. The Law member (fourth member) became a full member with the right to vote.
 2. The Legislative Council which had six members now had 12 members.
 3. The 12 members were: 1 Governor-General, 1 Commander-in-Chief, 4 members of the Governor-General's Council, 1 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at Calcutta, 1 regular judge of the Supreme Court at Calcutta, and 4 representative members drawn from among the company's servants with at least 10 years tenure, appointed by the local governments of Bengal, Bombay, Madras and North Western Provinces.
 4. The Governor-General could nominate a vice president to the council.

5. The Governor-General's assent was required for all legislative proposals.
- The Court of Directors could create a **new presidency or province**. This was because of the difficulties that were faced in administering the increasingly large Indian territories of Britain.
 1. Since 1833 and 1853, two new provinces of Sind and Punjab were added.
 2. It could also appoint a Lieutenant Governor for these provinces. In 1859, a Lt. Governor was appointed for Punjab.
 3. This Act also led to the creation of Assam, Burma and the Central Provinces.
 - The Act provided for the appointment of a **separate governor for the Bengal Presidency**. It maintained that the governor of Bengal should be different from the Governor-General who was to head administration of the whole of India.
 - The number of **Board of Directors** was reduced from 24 to 18 out of which 6 people were to be nominated by the British Crown.
 - **Indian Civil Services**
 1. Macaulay Committee of 1854 gave India her first civil services.
 2. This act removed the right of patronage to appointments in civil service held by the Court of Directors.
 3. The appointment was to be done only by open competition based on merit and was open to all.
 4. The report recommended that only the 'fittest' be selected to the ICS.

III: INDIAN COUNCILS ACT OF 1861

Provisions of the Act

- For the executive functions of the Council, a fifth member was added. Now there were five members for home, military, law, revenue and finance. (A sixth member for public works was added in 1874.)
- Lord Canning, who was the Governor-General and Viceroy at the time, introduced the portfolio system. In this system, each member was assigned a portfolio of a particular department.
- For legislative purposes, the Governor-General's Council was enlarged. Now, there were to be between 6 and 12 additional members (nominated by the Governor-General).
- There were appointed for a period of 2 years. Out of these, at least half of the additional members were to be non-official (British or Indian).
- Their functions were confined to legislative measures.
- Lord Canning nominated three Indians to the Council in 1862 namely, the Raja of Benares, the Maharaja of Patiala and Sir Dinkar Rao.
- Any bill related to public revenue or debt, military, religion or foreign affairs could not be passed without the Governor-General's assent.
- The Viceroy had the power to overrule the council if necessary.
- The Governor-General also had the power to promulgate ordinances without the council's concurrence during emergencies.
- The Secretary of State for India in Britain could also dissolve any act passed by the Governor-General's Council.

- This Act restored the legislative powers of the Governor-in-Councils of the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay (which was taken away by the Charter Act of 1833).
- The legislative council of Calcutta had extensive power to pass laws for the whole of British India.
- There was provision made for the formation of legislative councils in other provinces. New provinces could also be created for legislative purposes and Lieutenant Governors be appointed for them. Legislative councils were formed in other provinces in Bengal in 1862, North-West Frontier Province in 1886 and Punjab and Burma in 1897.

IV: RISE OF NATIONALISM

CAUSES

- Rise of Political Unification (Administrative Unity)
 - Development in the means of communication and transform (Introduction of railway and telecommunication)
 - Impact of western education (1854, Woods Dispatch)
 - Re-discovery of India's glorious past.
 - Socio-Religious reform movement (Brahama Samaj-1828, Arya Samaj- 1875, Theosophical Society-1875, Ramakrishna Mission-1897)
 - Growth of Vernacular literature (Vernacular Press Act, 1878).
 - Press and Newspapers ('Sambad Kaimiudi' in Bengali and 'Mirat-ul-Akhbar' in Persian- The 'Amritbazar patrika', 'Hindu Patriot', 'Indian Mirror', 'Bengalee'. 'Sanjivani', 'Sudharani', in Bengali; the 'Maratha'; 'Kesari', 'Native Opinion', 'Indu Prakash in Maharashtra'; 'The Hindu', 'Kerala Patrika', 'Andhra Prakashika' in Madras; 'Akhbar-i-Am', 'Koh-i-Noor in Punjab)
 - Economic Exploitation of British.
 - Illbert Bill Controversy (1883).
 - The Birth of Indian National Congress (1885).
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