



Smart Revision

MORLEY-MINTO REFORMS

Q: Why did Congress opposed Morley Minto Reforms of 1909?

Ans: The Indian national Congress opposed Morley Minto Reforms due to a number of reasons. One of the most important reasons was the separate electorate system. Lord Minto had accepted the Muslim's demand for separate electorate system. But Congress claimed that it was undemocratic, and in democracy majority should be the authority.

Another reason was the position of Indians in the councils. Although the British had increased the number of Indians in the councils e.g. the Imperial Council was increased to 60 members and the central executive council was also increased by adding 60 more members. But the position of Indians in the councils was purely advisory. The Indians could express their opinions, they could advice on the Govt. policies but they did not have the power to change the Govt. policy.

The third reason was the Limited enfranchise. All the Indians were not giving voting rights. The reforms did not enfranchise woman. They were not given political status or representation in the assemblies.

The fourth and the most important reason was the partition of Bengal. The Indian national Congress claimed that t the partition had nothing to do with the administration efficiency. They believed that the British had tried to weaken Hindu unity by dividing Bengal and establishing east Bengal with a Muslim majority. The Congress claimed that the reforms gave Muslims more rights than Hindus. The Congress also demanded more rights from British Govt.

For all these reasons the Congress opposed Morley-Minto reforms.

Q: Why Morley Minto reforms of 1909 were introduced?

Ans: Both lord Minto and secretary of state John Morley were convinced that the Indian demand for an increased share in the Govt. of their country was fully justified. They worked together to draw up a series of reforms which were passed by the British parliament 1909 as the Indian council's act. There were several reasons for this.

First reason was that, the people of India were not satisfied with the reforms of 1892. The imperial legislative had not been given enough powers. So the Indians demanded a new set of reforms.

The administration policy of Lord Curzon had alienated the sympathy of the people. His autocratic attitude had caused resentment among the Indians. He believed that the Indians were not fit governing and gave all good jobs to Englishmen. The partition of Bengal in 1905 had also caused great resentment and indignation throughout the country. So to end the resentment the Morley Minto reforms were introduced.

The All India Muslim League was founded in 1906 and a delegation of leading Muslims under Sir. Agha Khan waited on Viceroy of India and requested that separate electorate should be granted to the Muslims in the coming reforms. Lord Minto agreed to look into their demands with favourable consideration. So to fulfill their demands Morley-Minto Reforms were introduced.

So because of these reasons Morley Minto reforms were introduced. In view of growing unrest and discontent among the Indians Lord Minto and John Morley were convinced of the necessity in favour of Indians of the reforms.

Q: What was the importance of the Morley Minto reforms?

Ans: The importance of Morley Minto reforms is revealed by the fact that it had granted the separate electorates to the Indian Muslims. The Indian Muslims could determine their destiny by the introduction of the act. The credit of acceptance of separate electorate goes to the deputation, who met Lord Minto at Simla in October 1906. Lord Minto did a lot for the proper working of democracy in India by introducing separate electorate. The Muslims community would not be left at mercy of Hindu majority by introducing of separate electorate.

Lord Minto encouraged Muslims by fulfilling their demand. This encouragement resulted in the establishment of all India Muslim League, which struggled for the independence of a separate homeland for Indian Muslims in the subcontinent.

Thus, Lord Minto rendered great service to the Muslims of India. It was also important because of the introduction of Morley Minto reforms both Indian National Congress and Muslim League became close to each other and became ready to work under these reforms, as it was only a very short step towards greater self rule.

