



# Smart Revision

## *Simon Commission 1927*

### **Q: Why Simon Commission was boycotted? [7]**

Ans: There were several reasons for which the Indians boycotted the Simon Commission. One of the reasons was when in 1927 it appointed a seven men committee under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon to consider the situation in India. All members were British and not only one of them was Indian. Not surprisingly the composition of the committee was considered an insult in India, all parties became convinced that they must settle their differences and work together in opposition to the Simon Commission.

Another reason was that the Govt. of India Act of 1919 had stated that a commission was to be set up after 10 years to enquire into the workings of the reforms set up in 1919. In 1927, two years earlier than necessary a commission was set up. Many Indians believed that the British had broken their promise of introducing a committee ten years later by introducing it 2 years earlier, so they think that it was possible that the British will broke their other promises as well. That's why they started opposition to Simon Commission.

The last reason was that the British Conservative govt. however feared that it might soon lose power to the labor party, which it thought was too sympathetic to the beliefs of Indians nationalism. A labor govt. might make too many concessions and give away too much power to the Indian people and there was a threat they might lose control of India. So the conservative Govt. decided to bring the date of commission forward. Indians believed that these were oblivious stalling tactics to defer self government. So they organized opposition to Simon commission.

### **Q: Why Simon Commission came to India in 1927? [7]**

Ans: There were many factors that combined together that led to Simon commission comin to India. One of the factors was that before Simon Commission all the British attempts were failed to find a solution that could satisfy the Indians. For instance, Morley-Minto reforms, Montague Chelmsford Reforms, Delhi proposals (attempt made by Jinnah) failed because of dissatisfaction of any one group of the country. The stage was now set for the British to make their own recommendations to resolve the political crisis. The British government realized that the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms had been nothing more than a breathing space and that the British Raj had to be managed on a more equitable basis. The British government was in a quandary as they wished to involve more Indians in the administration but they were not ready to talk about Indian self Govt. It was decided by the British that a commission should be established to take stock of various shades of political opinion in India. So due to this Simon Commission arrived in India.

Another reason was that the 1919 Govt. of India Act had provided for a commission, ten years later, to consider further reforms. In 1927, two years earlier than necessary, a commission was set up. Lord Birkenhead, the Secretary for the state of India, wanted an early commission which a Conservative govt. could control in hope of obtaining a cautious report. He was worried that if a Labor govt. took office in the future it would give away too much power. So due to this reason Simon Commission arrived in India in 1927.