



Sambhav-2024

Day 48: Analyze the implications of the Simon Commission on Indian constitutional aspirations, and evaluate the significance of the Nehru Report in shaping India's political trajectory. **(250 Words)**

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Approach / Explanation / Answer

- Start the answer with a discussion that sets a context for the question.
- Discuss the implications of the Simon Commission on Indian constitutional aspirations.
- Evaluate the significance of the Nehru Report in shaping India's political trajectory.
- Conclude suitably.

Introduction

The Simon Commission and the Nehru Report are pivotal moments in India's constitutional history. The former, formed in 1927 to assess the functioning of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, and the latter, a response by Indian leaders, particularly Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1928, played crucial roles in shaping the trajectory of India's constitutional aspirations.

Body

Simon Commission and its Implications:

- **Composition and Exclusion of Indians:**
 - The Simon Commission, comprising all British members, drew criticism for its exclusion of Indian representatives.
 - This reflected the imperialistic mindset, triggering resentment among Indians who demanded a role in shaping their constitutional destiny.
- **Boycott and Protest:**
 - The Indians, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and others, boycotted the Commission, leading to mass protests and the famous slogan "Simon Go Back."
 - Massive protests, like the Lahore Protest in 1928, showcased the public's determination to be actively involved in the constitutional process.
- **Impact on Communal Relations:**
 - The Simon Commission exacerbated communal tensions as it failed to address the communal representation issue.
 - The absence of Indian voices led to a deepening divide between Hindus and Muslims, setting the stage for future constitutional challenges related to communalism.
- **Demand for Swaraj:**

- The failure of the Simon Commission to recognize Indian aspirations for self-rule intensified the demand for Swaraj (self-governance).
- This demand became a rallying cry for the Indian National Congress and other political groups, further fueling the independence movement.

Nehru Report and its Significance:

▪ Background and Context:

- In response to the Simon Commission, the All Parties Conference was convened in 1928, leading to the drafting of the Nehru Report.
- Prepared by Motilal Nehru, it proposed a dominion status for India within the British Commonwealth, with a parliamentary system based on adult franchise.
 - It also suggested a federal structure, protection of minority rights, emphasizing secularism and fundamental rights.

▪ Rejection of Separate Electorates:

- One of the report's progressive aspects was its rejection of separate electorates, a departure from the Communal Award.
- This reflected a commitment to a more inclusive and united India, despite challenges posed by communalism.

▪ Communal Responses and Criticism:

- While the report aimed at inclusivity, it faced criticism for not fully addressing minority concerns.
- Communal responses, especially from the Muslim League, highlighted perceived inadequacies, setting the stage for future communal tensions.

Conclusion

The Simon Commission and Nehru Report were crucial in India's constitutional journey. The exclusion of Indians by the Simon Commission and the response in the Nehru Report fueled the demand for self-governance. These events laid the groundwork for future constitutional developments, playing a key role in India's path to independence in 1947.

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