

1 By Himanshu Khatri

Morley Minto reforms/Indian Councils Act 1909 (*ICA1909)

Morley was Secretary of State for India & Minto (1905-10) was "Viceroy & Governor-General".

Reason for ICA1909=

- 1) **Swadeshi movement** 1905-11 that led to rise of **extremist** politics (1905-08) & **Revolutionary** Activities (1908+)
- 2) **Policy of Divide & Rule (*DnR) of British i.e. divide** Moderates & Extremists
 - a) Goal was to strengthen Moderates & weaken Extremists in Indian politics by following steps:
 - i) conciliation with Moderates & suppression of Extremists.
 - ii) Now Extremists have less support of Moderates. Hence Extremists isolated.
 - iii) Now repression of Extremists (*suppression is mild, repression is harsh).
 - b) This was implemented in following manner
 - i) **Morley's BD Speech 1906** hinted at next council reforms.
 - ii) This made Moderate unfriendly with Extremists as their extremism may change mind of Br.
 - iii) This led to **Surat Split 1907** and then Extremists repressed.
- 3) **Policy of Divide & Rule (*DnR) of British i.e. divide Hindus & Muslims** by bringing "**Reservation for Muslims, with Separate Electorates**". (*Today we have Reservation for SC but with joint electorates i.e. non-SC voters also vote in a seat reserved for SC candidate)
- 4) SoS Morley was a **Liberal** (*less authoritarian) & this was another reason for ICA1909.

By Himanshu Khatri

2 By Himanshu Khatri

Provisions of ICA1909

- 1) Morley - "no intent of responsible government by ICA1909" (*means not that liberal also that will give democracy to Indians) (*Responsible Govt is when
 - a) Executive responsible to Parliament (*or people indirectly)
 - b) Parliament has significant majority of elected representatives.
 - c) Executive power with party which has majority in Parliament (*Executive is child of Parliament i.e. Minister has to MP)
- 2) Brought **Limited Self Govt** (**goal of INC until 1906; goal= swaraj from 1906 Calcutta Session thus 2nd failure of moderates)
- 3) 1st time **proper indirect elections** (**ICA 1892- selection & fake indirect elections).

LOCAL BODIES $\xrightarrow{\text{elect}}$ an ELECTORAL COLLEGE $\xrightarrow{\text{which elects}}$ Members of PLCs
which elect
27 non official members
of 60 members of ILC

- 4) 1st time **non official majority but only in PLCs** not in ILC. Many non-official members in PLCs to be nominated.
- 5) **No elected majority** in ILC, PLCs. Only in Bengal elected majority was brought but here 4 elected seats were reserved for European Businesses.
- 6) **27 of 60** members of ILC were **indirectly elected**.
- 7) 1st time **separate electorates** for Muslims- in ILC, PLC & local bodies

By Himanshu Khatri

3 By Himanshu Khatri

- 8) In ILC 8 of 27 elected members to be Muslims thus **Reservation > % in population** for Muslims. (*related: 1889 minority clause of INC where INC demanded reservation for minorities but as per % in population).
- 9) R2Vote linked with **income criteria** & lower income criteria for Muslims
- 10) 1st time - **One Indian in VEC/IEC** (*i.e. Indian as Minister)

Powers-

- 1) Govt could disqualify any candidate thought to be politically dangerous (**1892- Selection, 1909- Power of Rejection) (*hence nationalist leaders can be prevented from contesting elections)
- 2) Executive not responsible to Legislature + powers of Viceroy continued as before (*not even remotely like a powerless President of a democracy).

Powers of Legislature –

- 1) 1st time members could **vote on individual items in Budget (*BD)** but not on whole budget (*rejection of BD= No confidence motion) (*ICA1892- 1st time BD discussion allowed but no voting).
- 2) **Supplementary Questions** could be asked (**ICA 1892 SQ not allowed)
- 3) Members **could initiate & pass resolutions** but not mandatory for govt to follow & only recommendatory for the government (** ICA 1892 no resolution by opposition & no vote on government resolution)
- 4) **Satyendra Prasanna Sinha/ Satyendra Prasad Sinha** became 1st Indian in VEC (was law member/minister).

Impact of ICA1909

- 1) ICA 1909 was **most short-lived** council reform.

By Himanshu Khatri

4 By Himanshu Khatri

a) [[* **ICA 1861** (30 yrs) – **ICA 1892** (17 yrs)- **ICA 1909**(10 yrs)- **GOI 1919** (16yrs)
GOI 1935 (15yrs)- **COI 1950**]]

2) failed to satisfy any group (*due to weak legislatures moderates also not happy) [INC
goal= Swaraj since 1906 hence ☹]

3) Laid foundation of **partition** via separate electorates for Muslims.

4) Since **no responsible government** therefore led to **Benevolent Despotism**
(*Benevolent as more democratic than ICA1892 but still far away from proper self rule
hence Despotism. Don't be surprised as in ICA1861 we wrote that Despotism Controlled
from Home stayed as the core feature of British rule)

By Himanshu Khatri