

Indian Council Act 1909

(Minto-Morley Reforms)

Act was passed by British Parliament to increase the number of Indians in governance. → revised the Acts of 1861 & 1892 and introduced the concept of separate electorate. also known as Minto-Morley Reforms. was named after John Morley, the sec. of state for India. (1905-1910) who formulated this act.

Historical Background:

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- ↳ In 1906, Liberal Party came to power in Britain. → political freedom.
- ↳ The Simla Deputation met Lord Minto in 1906 and presented their proposal for separate Electorate for Muslims.
- ↳ Muslim League was formed in India.
- ↳ Indian council Act of 1909 was passed to Moderate the INC & Muslims to its side.

1st Demand:

What is separate Electorate:

In separate electorate, only the representative of a particular community contests the elections.

For example:

There are 20 people in a constituency
12 are Muslims & 8 → non-Muslims

In this case in separate electorate
only Muslims can contest in election and
only Muslims can vote

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Second:

Two Indians in Viceroy's executive
Council → 1 Muslim member and 1
from other community.

Key Provisions:

Control of Govt was in the hands of
Sec of State → Viceroy
↓ Cabinet Minister (India)

Administration:

Indian Council Act 1909 allowed Indians to join Viceroy's Executive Council.

Central Legislature:

- ↳ Members increased from 16 to 60. ↗ 10-16X
- ↳ At center official mem were to form majority.
- ↳ Legislative mem to be permitted to discuss budget, suggest the amendments & to vote on them.
- ↳ Additional members were now allowed to question executive council mem.

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- ↳ Right of separate electorate was given to the Muslims.

Provincial Legislature:

- ↳ Provincial legislature was now in 7 places Madras, Punjab, UP, Bengal, Bombay, Burma Assam & additional mem were increased
- ↳ non-officials can be in majority.

Significance:

- ↳ Association of elected Indians with administration.
- ↳ M. Ali Jinnah, a private member, also presented a bill, Waqf-alal-Aulad, which was passed by council.
- ↳ Act of 1909 opened space for political development.
- ↳ Separate electorate played key role in political development of Muslims.

Defects:

- ↳ Size of council was expanded.
- ↳ mem were able to discuss the budget, but unable to make any significant change.

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Conclusion:

The British parliament passed reforms known as Minto-Morley Reforms. changes allowed Indians representation in Administration & paved the way for Indian Muslims political development by giving them separate electorate.