



SALTORA NETAJI CENTENARY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

SEMESTER –IV

COURSE CODE: AHHST 403 C-10

COURSE TITLE: HISTORY OF INDIA (1757-1885)

TOPIC: INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION OF LORD CURZON

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Introduction

Efficiency was Lord Curzon's watch word and to secure it, he practically overhauled the whole machinery of administration. He was impatient of incompetence and delay and so did his best to infuse vigour into every department. He appointed committees to enquire into the defects and anomalies of the existing systems and promptly gave effect to their recommendations.

Land revenue

Lord Curzon gave a good deal of attention to the problem of land revenue and to the condition of the peasantry. He introduced greater elasticity both in the assessment and collection of the land revenue by arranging for the revision and reduction of assessment as the circumstances required. He laid down the salutary principle that the government demand should vary according to the character of the season. In cases where assessment has to be increased, it should be done by graduated steps.



Measures to benefit cultivators

He took several measures for improving the condition of the peasant. He started Co-operative Credit Societies to provide cultivators with necessary capital at a low rate of interest. This lessened the burden of their debts. He passed the Punjab Land Alienation Act to prevent the land of the cultivator from being transferred by state or mortgage to the money lending class. Lastly, he appointed an Inspector General of Agriculture and founded an Imperial Agricultural Department to encourage the application of scientific method to Indian agriculture.

Official control of Universities

In 1904, he passed the Universities Act in order to bring the Universities under the more strict control of the Government. The Act reorganized the constitution of the Syndicates, provided for the official inspection, of colleges and placed the final decision concerning the affiliation and disaffiliation to colleges in hands of the Government of India. Steps were also taken to develop the Universities from examining to teaching bodies.

Preservation of ancient monuments

The measures adopted by Lord Curzon for the conservation and restoration of ancient monuments deserve unqualified praise. He passed an Act for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments and established the department of Archaeological Survey which has done much to preserve the relics of the past and to excavate the sites of antiquity. This has promoted the growth of historical research and archaeological study in India.



Financial measures

Lord Curzon set up a new department of commerce and industry and placed it under the charge of a sixth member of the Executive Council in charge of it. Among his financial reforms, the most important was the legislation which made gold a legal tender and fixed the rate of exchange at fifteen rupees to the sovereign. The Salt Tax was nearly halved and the limit of exemption from the Income Tax was raised to benefit the smaller incomes.

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THANK YOU