

Introduction to Nehru Report

The Nehru Report was prepared in 1928 under the leadership of Motilal Nehru. It was made after the Simon Commission was boycotted by Indians. The report was the first major attempt by Indian leaders to draft a constitution for India. It was written by an all-parties committee, and its main aim was to suggest a future political system. The Nehru Report rejected separate electorates for Muslims, which created disagreement among communities. Although it was not accepted by everyone, it became an important milestone in India's political history.

Why Was the Nehru Report Prepared?

The Nehru Report was prepared because Indians were unhappy with the Simon Commission. The Commission had no Indian members, so leaders decided to prepare their own draft of reforms. They wanted to show the British that Indians were capable of framing their own constitution. The report was also an answer to the growing demand for independence and better self-rule. It reflected the desire of Indian leaders to take charge of their political future.

Main Demands in the Nehru Report

The Nehru Report suggested many important reforms. It demanded India to have Dominion Status within the British Empire, similar to Canada. It recommended a parliamentary system of government with two houses. The report also wanted fundamental rights for the people, like freedom of speech and equality before law. It proposed joint electorates for Hindus and Muslims instead of separate ones. Provincial autonomy was also suggested to give more powers to provinces. These ideas showed the Indian wish for more democracy and freedom.

Muslim League's Concerns

The Nehru Report became a point of conflict between Hindus and Muslims. The report rejected separate electorates, which Muslims saw as unfair. It also reduced Muslim representation in some provinces where they were in minority. Leaders like Muhammad Ali Jinnah felt that Muslim rights were being ignored. This created deep dissatisfaction among Muslims. Jinnah later presented his famous Fourteen Points in response to the Nehru Report. These points aimed to protect Muslim political rights in future reforms.

Reactions to the Nehru Report

Different communities reacted differently to the Nehru Report. Congress supported it because it matched their vision of a united India. Many Hindus welcomed the demand for joint electorates. Muslims, however, strongly opposed the report as they feared losing their identity and political power. The British government did not take the report seriously either. As a result, it failed to unite Indians on one platform. Instead, it increased the gap between Hindus and Muslims.

Importance of the Nehru Report

Even though the Nehru Report failed to satisfy all groups, it had great importance in history. It was the first Indian-made draft constitution, which showed political maturity. It gave Muslims the courage to clearly state their demands through Jinnah's Fourteen Points. It also made it clear that Hindus and Muslims had different political goals. This realization later became a base for the demand of Pakistan. The Nehru Report, therefore, was an important step in the struggle for independence.