

Introduction

The Simon Commission was created by the British government in 1927 and came to India in 1928. Its main purpose was to review the Government of India Act 1919 and see how the reforms were working. Indians were unhappy because no Indian was included in the Commission. This made the people feel ignored and unfairly treated. The Simon Commission soon became a turning point in the struggle for freedom.

Government of India Act 1919

The Government of India Act 1919 is also called the Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms. It gave Indians a small role in running the country. For the first time, elections were introduced in the provinces, and some Indians became ministers. However, their powers were very limited, and the real authority remained with the British governors and officials. Indians were disappointed with these reforms and started to demand full self-rule instead of partial control.

Why Called Simon Commission?

The Commission was called the Simon Commission because it was led by Sir John Simon, a British politician. At that time, it was common for commissions to be named after their chairman. The name “Simon Commission” became widely known in India, but it was remembered with anger. People connected Simon’s name with the unfair decisions of the British and saw the Commission as a symbol of colonial injustice.

Purpose of Simon Commission

The purpose of the Simon Commission was to study how the reforms of the Government of India Act 1919 were working in practice. It was supposed to suggest changes for the future system of government in India. However, the Commission avoided discussing full independence or dominion status for India. Its main aim was to protect British control and not to give Indians real power. This is why the Commission failed to win the trust of the Indian people.

Reactions and Importance

When the Simon Commission arrived in India, people strongly protested against it with the slogan “Simon Go Back!” Both the Congress and the Muslim League decided to boycott the Commission. In Lahore, a peaceful protest led by Lala Lajpat Rai was attacked by the police, and he later died from his injuries. In response, Indian leaders prepared the Nehru Report, while Muhammad Ali Jinnah gave his Fourteen Points to protect Muslim rights. Although the Simon Commission failed, it gave new strength to the independence movement and became an important step towards the Pakistan Movement.