

FRAMING OF THE CONSTITUTION- PART 1

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The Indian Constitution

- **The Indian Constitution was formed as a result of a long process**
- **The main feature of our constitution is that it was formed as a result of elaborate discussions and deliberations**
- **It is not dominated by a single community or made for a single section of the society**

- **It was made by a representative body for the whole of India**
- **The formation of Indian Constitution is a major chapter in modern Indian history.**

Formation of Constituent Assembly

- The demand for a Constituent Assembly for India was first put forward by **M.N Roy** in 1934
- INC officially demanded for a Constituent Assembly in **1935**

- **August Offer 1940:** the demand was accepted in principle by British government
- Announced by **Viceroy Linlithgow**
- On **August 8, 1940.**
- **Dominion status for India**
- **A Constituent Assembly after the WW2.**

- **The constitution would be based on India's conception of its social, economic, and political structure.**
- **No constitution will be adopted without the consent of the minorities**
- **August offer was rejected by Congress because it demanded complete freedom from colonial rule.**

- However, it is significant as **the first time the demand for an indigenous Constituent Assembly was recognised by the colonial government**
- **Cripps Mission and proposals:**
- Cripps Mission was sent by British government to India with constitutional proposals in **1942**
- It was headed by **Sir Stafford Cripps**

- **Why?**
- **Japanese threat to invade India**
- **Indian nationalists had agreed to support the Allied powers (if substantial power was transferred immediately and complete independence given after the war**
- **Pressure from parties in the allied powers**

- **What were the proposals?**
- **Indian Union with Dominion Status**
- **Provinces had right to secede**
- **A Constituent Assembly will be set up after the war**
- **More autonomy to the assembly as compared to the August Offer**
- **Free India could withdraw from the Commonwealth.**

- **Indian Response:**
- **It was rejected by both Congress and Muslim League.**
- **Why?**
- **It did not offer complete independence**
- **No elected representatives from princely states**
- **Right to secede will jeopardise national unity**
- **No immediate transfer of power**
- **Muslim League wanted two separate states**

- **Cabinet Mission Plan:**
- **Stafford Cripps, Pethick Lawrence, A V Alexander**
- **Proposed in February 1946**
- **Reached in March 24 1946**
- **Proposals were accepted by Indian leaders and a Constituent Assembly was formed by the scheme proposed**

Constituent Assembly

- **Total Strength:**
- 389 members.
- 296 seats for British India
- 93 seats for princely states.
- **Seats Allocation:**
- **British India:** 292 from 11 governors' provinces and 4 from Chief Commissioners' provinces (1 seat each).
- **Proportional to population:** 1 seat for every 1 million people.

- **Princely States:** Representatives nominated by their rulers.
- **Community Representation:** Seats in British provinces divided among Muslims, Sikhs, and General (others) based on population.
- **Election Method:** Representatives elected by their community in provincial assemblies using proportional representation and single transferable vote.

- **Party wise composition:**
- **Elections were held in July-August 1946 for the 296 seats allocated to British Indian provinces.**
- **Results: Indian National Congress: Won 208 seats.**
- **Muslim League: Secured 73 seats.**
- **Small groups/Independents: Gained 15 seats.**
- **Princely States: 93 seats reserved for princely states were not filled as they chose to stay away.**

MODEL QUESTIONS

Q. Arrange the following events in chronological order.

- a. Quit India Movement**
- b. Cripps Mission**
- c. August Offer**
- d. Second round table conference**

- A. a b c d**
- B. b c d a**
- C. d c b a**
- D. d c a b**

C. d c b a

Explanation:

Second round table conference: 1931

August Offer: 1940

Cripps Mission: March- April 1942

Quit India Movement: August 1942

Q. Which of the following was criticised by Gandhi as a “post dated cheque”?

- A. Cripps Mission**
- B. Cabinet Mission**
- C. August Offer**
- D. None of the above**

A. Cripps Mission

Explanation: Mahatma Gandhi called the Cripps Mission proposals as a “post dated cheque on a crashing bank” because it failed to meet the expectations and desires of the Indian nationalists



THANK YOU