

Lecture-20



The Judicial Plans of Warren Hastings 1774

Plan of 1774

With this plan collectors were recalled from every district.

In place of Collector an Indian officer was appointed called as Diwan or amil.

Diwan got the power to collect the revenue as well as act as a judge in the Mofussil diwani adalat.

The territory of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa was divided into six divisions with their headquarters at Calcutta, Burdwan, Murshidabad, Dinajpore, Dacca and Patna.

In each division many districts were created.

The complete Bihar came under the Patna Division.

A provincial Council consisting of four or five English servants of the company were appointed in each division to supervise the collection of revenue and to hear appeals from the cases decided by the amil, the Indian diwan.

The Provincial Council was a link between the Mofussil Diwani Adalat and the Sadar Diwani Adalat.

While in the Plan of 1772, appeals from the mofussil diwani adalats lay to the Sadar Diwani Adalat in all cases over Rs. 500, now all cases decided by the amils irrespective of their value were appealable to the Provincial Council.

This time also Warren Hastings knew that the Provisional council will do more harm and more corruption than the Collectors. Warren Hastings considered this plan as a temporary plan but the Regulating Act was passed at this time and Warren Hasting could not change the plan until year 1780