

Lecture-5



Dual government in Bengal

In 1765 a dual government was established in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. By virtue of the Diwani, the East India Company directly collected revenue from these areas. At the same time the Company enjoyed military power and criminal jurisdiction over these areas.

However, the administration of the kingdom was left in the hands of the Nawab. This arrangement was called 'dual government'. Thus, the Nawab was burdened with the responsibility of administering the country without the resources for running it efficiently.

The Company which had control over the resources had no responsibility of administering the country. Obviously the Company was unwilling to spend the revenue it collected on the administration and welfare of the people.

This system of dual government resulted in utter misery for the people. The revenue officials extorted money from poor peasants who were forced to starve. The year 1770 witnessed the most severe famine of the century. About one- third of the population perished. At the time of Clive's departure to England, the British were no longer mere traders in Bengal. They were legally the rulers of the province.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION

1. In which place in India, British started Dual system of Government?

A. Madras

B. Bengal

C. Bombay

D. Pondicherry

Ans: B

2. What did the term Dual system in Bengal mean ?

Ans. The administration of Bengal was carried on by two powers, the East India Company and the Nawab of Bengal. This is the reason why this system of government was called the Dual system.

3. Who abolished the Dual system or Dyarchy in Bengal and when ?

Ans. Warren Hastings, in 1772 AD.

4. Who was made the first Governor General of India and when ?

Ans. Warren Hastings, in 1773 AD.

5. Between whom and when the first Mysore War was fought ?

Ans. The English, The Marathas and the Nezam of Hydera¹ on the one side and Hyderabad Ali on the other, in 1767 AD.