

## **1. DISCUSS THE IMPORTANT FEATURES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT,, 1919?**

The GoI Act 1919 was the refection of the British Government's declared objective to ensure gradual introduction of responsible government in India.

The Act is also known as Montague-Chelmsford Reforms as it embodied the reforms recommended in the report of the Secretary of State for India, Edwin Montagu, and the Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford.

Central and provincial subjects were demarcated and separated. Central and provincial legislatures were to make law on their respective list of subjects.

It further divided the provincial subjects into two parts such as transferred and reserved. The transferred subjects were to administered by the Governor with the aid of ministers responsible to the legislative Council. The reserved subjects were toadministered by the Governor and is executive council without being responsible to the legislative council. This dual scheme of governance was known as 'dyarchy'.

It introduced, for the first time, bicameralism and direct election in the country. Indian Legislative Council was replaced by bicameral legislatures consisting of an Upper House (Council of State) and a Lower House (Legislative Assembly). The lower house was the Legislative Assembly of 144 members, of which 104 were elected and 40 were nominated and tenure of three years. The upper house was the Council of States consisting of 34 elected and 26 nominated members and tenure of five years.

The majority of the members of both the Houses were chosen by direct election.

It required that the three of the six members of the six members of the Viceroy's executive Council were to be Indian.

It extended the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorate for Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans.

It granted franchise to a limited number of people on the basis of property, tax or education.

It provided for the establishment of a public services commission. A Central Public Service Commission was set up in 1926 for recruiting civil servants.

It separated provincial budget from central budget.

It provided for the constitution of a statutory commission to enquire into and report on its working after ten years of its coming into force.