

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION AS PER 1858, ACT

The Government of India Act, introduced in 1858, brought a number of changes in the Indian administrative system. It reorganized the administrative structure with the Crown as the Apex, and made revision in Army, Local Bodies, Revenue and provincial administration. The important changes incorporated in the provincial administration can be cited as follows:-

1. As per the Act, the British Government had divided India into Provinces for administrative convenience.
2. Among the provinces, most important were the Presidencies such as Bengal, Madras and Bombay.
3. The three Presidencies administered by Governor with an executive council.
4. In comparison to the other provinces the Presidencies were enjoyed more rights and powers.
5. The other provinces were ruled by Lieutenant Governors and Chief Commissioners appointed by Governor General of India.
6. The Central government maintained strict control over the Provincial expenditure.

LOCAL BODIES AFTER 1858

1. The policy of legislative and financial decentralization made possible for the development of Local-Self Government in India with the introduction of :-
 - Municipalities &
District Boards
2. The need for Municipal administration were recognized and Municipal Acts were enacted for Bengal in 1864 & 1868, for Madras in 1865, for Punjab in 1867 and for North Western frontier Provinces in 1868.

In the year 1870, Lord Mayo's government had introduced the system of provincial finance that emphasized the need for the development of Local Self Government and strengthening the Municipal administration.

As a follow up measures, new Municipal Act were introduced for Madras in 1871, for Bombay, Bengal, and the North Western Provinces, the Punjab and the Central provinces in 1873, and for Burma (then a part of India) in 1874.

Again, at the time of Lord Ripon's administration Acts were passed that altered the constitution, powers and function of municipal bodies. As per this development, even a private citizen was eligible for contesting to the office the Chairmen of a Municipality.

Following that, the Decentralization Commission Report, 1908, recommended the development of District Boards, Sub-District Boards and Village Panchayats.

The Government of India Act 1935, that introduced provincial autonomy gave further impetus to the development of Local Self Government.