Indian Councils Act 1861

Features

- Legislative powers of Bombay and Madras were restored
- Viceroy can appoint Indians as non-official members of his council
- new legislative councils were established at
  - Bengal 1862
  - NWFP 1866
  - Punjab 1897
- Viceroy was empowered to make rules and orders
- Viceroy can issue ordinances during emergency
  - no need for support from legislative council
  - valid for 6 months from promulgation

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Facts

- Lord canning nominated three Indians to his Legislative council
  - Maharaja of Patiala
  - Raja of Benares
  - Sir Dinkar Rao
- Portfolio system got importance after this act