

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS OF Indian Polity and Governance-1

GS Paper-I: (1013)

1. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The features of the Regulating Act, 1773, were as follows:

1. It designated the Governor of Bengal as the 'Governor-General of Bengal' and created an Executive Council of four members to assist him. The first such Governor-General was Lord Warren Hastings.
2. It made the Governors of Bombay and Madras Presidencies subordinate to the Governor-General of Bengal, unlike earlier, when the three Presidencies were independent of one another.
3. It provided for the establishment of a Supreme Court at Calcutta (1774), comprising one Chief Justice and three other judges.
4. It prohibited the servants of the Company from engaging in any private trade or accepting presents or bribes from the 'natives'.
5. It strengthened the control of the British Government over the Company by requiring the Court of Directors (the governing body of the Company) to report on its revenue, civil and military affairs in India.

The Amending Act of 1781: It exempted the Governor-General and the Council from the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court for the acts done by them in their official capacity. Similarly, it also exempted the servants of the Company from the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court for their official actions.

2. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The features of the Pitt's India Act of 1784 were as follows:

1. It distinguished between the commercial and political functions of the Company.
2. It allowed the Court of Directors to manage the commercial affairs, but created a new body, called the Board of Control, to manage the political affairs. Thus, it established a system of double government.
3. **It empowered the Board of Control to supervise and direct all operations of the civil and military government or revenues of the British possessions in India.**

Thus, the Act was significant for two reasons: First, the Company's territories in India were, for the first time, called the 'British possessions in India'; and second, the British Government was given the supreme control over the Company's affairs and its administration in India.

The Charter Act of 1793: It laid down that the members of the Board of Control and their staffs were, henceforth, to be paid out of the Indian revenues.

3. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The features of the Charter Act of 1793 were as follows:

1. It extended the overriding power given to Lord Cornwallis over his Council, to all future Governor-Generals and the Governors of the Presidencies.
2. It gave the Governor-General more powers and control over the governments of the subordinate Presidencies of Bombay and Madras.
3. It extended the trade monopoly of the Company in India for another period of twenty years.