

Administrative Reforms of Mir Osman Ali Khan - An Overview

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Abstract:

This article deals with the administration system of the Nizams. Especially it focuses on the administrative reforms of Mir Osman Ali Khan. And this theme has been selected and tries to give justice to the topic. He has made good administration during his tenure and built best administrative state in India. He has brought so many changes in the administration field. Such as reorganised the finance system, reclassification of heads and revenue system, unicameral legislative system, concession and privileges given to the tribal by establishing tribal panchayat system in the state.

Key Words: Nizam, Administration, Reforms, Tribal Panchayat, Unicameral Legislature etc.

Introduction:

Hyderabad formed as an independent successor state of the Mughal Empire and the former Naib of the Mughal in the Deccan Asaf Jah I defeated Mubarez Khan in 1724 to establish autonomy over the Deccan Suba, named the region Hyderabad Deccan and started what which came to be known as the Asaf Jahi dynasty. Asaf Jah, means the “Administrator of the Realm.” Subsequent rulers retained the title Nizam ul-Mulk and they were referred to as Asaf Jahi Nizams or Nizams of Hyderabad. The Nizams who ruled over Hyderabad state for two centuries and made good administration during their tenure. Those are namely, Qamar-ud-din Khan, Mir Nizam Ali Khan, Mir Akbar Ali Khan (Sikinder Bahaddur), Mir Farqunda Ali Khan (Nasirudoul Bahaddur), Mir Tahniyath Ali Khan (Afzaludoul Bahaddur), Mir Mahbeeb Ali Khan and Mir Osman Ali Khan. Among the nizams Mir Osman Ali Khan had gave more concentration towards the improvement of the administration.

Administration System of Nizams:

The Mansab system had linked every offices and important personnel in Mughal administration serves. The Mansabdari system of Mansab had continuity in the public services in the Deccan under the Nizam-ul-Mulk. Under the Nizam-ul-Mulk, the Mansab system in the Deccan seems to have undergone with certain changes. Hyderabad state ruled by 7 Nizams and with the help of 42 Dewans.

The territorial jurisdictions of the Mughal Deccan regions are divided in 6 divisions. Those are Aurangabad, Bidar, Khandesh, Berar, Bijapur and Hyderabad. In these 6 Subha each divided in sub division as Sarkars. Each Sarkars again divided as Farganas, for financial purpose these called as Mahal. And each Fargana or Mahal has Deha or Kasta or Mouja as many small regional divisions. Deha is a small unit of the administration. In Nizam-ul-mulk period there are 95 Sarkars and 1273 Farganas are the unit of the Deccan administration. The Subha's are control with the support of the Manasabdars, Jagirdars, Foujdars and others.

A detailed account of the administrative divisions of the six subhas of the Deccan with their revenues had been compiled in Aurangzeb's time and it is preserved in the Deh-be-Deh Munimkhan's work "Sawane-i-Deccan", composed in 1782 A.D. is mainly based on Aurangzeb's records. Both these sources give particulars of the administrative divisions that existed from the time of Aurangzeb through the times of Nizam-ul-Mulk. These administrative divisions formed the very basis of Nizam-ul-Mulk's administration. Nizam made this type of system for the smooth administration in the Deccan. We can also see decentralization power of administration. At the local administration some prominent officers like, Foujdar, Ameen, Ameel, Khaji and Kotwal, Shikdar etc. were working with honesty.

Administrative Reforms of Mir Osman Ali Khan:

The administration in Hyderabad during 1911 to 1948 period of Mir Osman Ali that it was a personal monarchy, to a certain extent modified by the existence of a Chief Minister with an Executive Council, as instituted by the Qanuncha-i Mubarak of 1892, and supplemented by the Qanuncha regulations of 1898. In December 1914, the Nizam took over direct administration of the State resulting in reforms in various departments and all round progress was made. Moreover, it is to be observed that the objective of the Hyderabad administration at that time was not merely to carry out the whims of the monarch, irrespective of the true interests of the state and the welfare of its people, but that its primary function was to secure the good of the state and its people. He made new constructive administrative reforms for the welfare of the people. Those are mentioned as given bellow:

1. Mir Osman Ali Khan brought administration close to people of Hyderabad State. The administration during the reigning period of Mir Osman Ali Khan was the period when the state had undergone a drastic change in almost all sectors of administrative fields. Mir Osman Ali Khan was a man of remarkable energy and intelligence and he devoted his personal attention to the minute's details of administration.
2. Reorganised finances in state: Mir Osman Ali saw the development in the finance, as in the revenue department. Encouraging financial reform, he led the state of Hyderabad to an enviable credit position; it issued its own currency notes and coins. During his period the Hyderabad was a crucial condition to becoming a surplus state. Not only becoming a surplus state, Mir Osman Ali Khan helped the British in financially military wise at World War I and II. So, Hyderabad become a totally surpluses and Mir

Osman Ali Khan became a richest man in the world. As per the Forbes list of 2008. He also got published his photo on the cover page of Time Magazine on 22 February 1937.

3. Reclassification of the Heads of Revenue and Expenditure. It's also done by Mir Osman Ali Khan. Mir Osman Ali Khan first turned his attention towards the problem of the heavy indebtedness of the Hyderabad nobility as a class, owing to their habits of loose living and undue extravagance. The greatest reform which Mir Osman Ali Khan carried out in the financial field was the appointment of commissions to investigate the misappropriation and mishandling of government funds under different heads by the dignitaries and high-ranking officers of the state.
4. Unicameral Legislature System: In 1938 Unicameral Legislature was introduced in Hyderabad with 85 members for the first time and Harijanas were given chance in this council. A unicameral legislature system is government with one legislative house or chamber. Unicameral is the word that describes a single house legislative system.
5. Concessions and Privileges for Tribals: Concessions and privileges were granted for development of Tribals. Tribals were mainly existed in Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Mahaboob Nagar. He led quite a frugal life but was concerned about the comfort of the people and especially his Khanazads, those who served him.
6. Tribal Panchayath System: The Tribal panchayat system was introduced during the period of Mir Osman Ali Khan's initial period of Mir Osman Ali Khan Hyderabad was a best administered state in India. He took interest in the socio-cultural welfare of the people and Tribal reforms. He rehabilitated displaced for Tribals - Gonds. The entire social system was organised into three functional levels across major tribal communities in the state.

Conclusion:

To summing up, after the downfall of the Mughals in Deccan Nizams declared independent and started to rule over the Hyderabad state. During the period of Nizams many developments and reforms made in the state. Especially Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan took keen interest for the development of the state. He made fine administrative reforms for the betterment and welfare of the people of Hyderabad state.

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