CHAPTER SIX

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER AND
THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
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CHIEF COMMISSIONER

In official terminology, Chief Commissionerships were generally referred to as Local Administrations rather than as Local Governments. But according to Indian Law, Chief Commissionership is regarded for all practical purposes, as Local Government.

A Chief Commissioner administered his Province as a delegate of the Governor General who might resume, withdraw, increase or modify the powers that he himself had conferred. The Chief Commissioners, being delegates of the Governor General in Council, were appointed by him in his discretion without any reference to any Act of Parliament. They occupied a position lower than that of the Lieutenant Governor who was appointed in terms of an Act of Parliament. But in practice, the powers entrusted to a Chief Commissioner were nearly as wide as those of a

1Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms, 1918, P.36.

Lieutenant Governor. With the creation of Legislative Councils in Assam on November 14, 1912 and in the Central Provinces on November 19, 1913, any distinction whatsoever between a Chief Commissioner and the Lieutenant Governor tended to disappear.3

The powers and functions of the Chief Commissioner of Assam may be discussed under the three broad heads namely Executive, Judicial and Legislative.

EXECUTIVE POWERS

The Assam Chief Commissionership Act (VIII of 1874) and the Sylhet Act (XII of 1874) enumerated the powers and functions of the Chief Commissioner.4

The powers and functions exercised by the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal and the Board of Revenue on the date of the formation of Chief Commissionership and on the date of the transfer to it of the district of Sylhet, were transferred to or vested in the Governor General in Council. It was enacted that the Governor General in Council might from time to time delegate to the Chief Commissioner all or any of the said powers, and might

3Ibid., Pp. 32-33.

4The Manual of Local Rules and Orders Made Under Enactments Applying to Assam, Vol.I, 1933, P. 161. Acts VII and XII of 1874 were repealed by the Bengal and Assam Laws Act, VII of 1905, which in its turn was repealed by Act VII of 1912.
withdraw any powers so delegated.\textsuperscript{5}

The Governor General in Council delegated to the chief Commissioner of Assam, the following powers namely:

1. All powers which were vested in the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal under any Act of the Governor General in Council\textsuperscript{6};

2. All powers in respect to Settlement of land revenue which were vested in or exercised by the Board of Revenue for the Lower Provinces\textsuperscript{7};

3. Powers of a Local Government under Sections 2 and 5, Act II (B.C.) of 1867 - powers to regulate gambling\textsuperscript{8};


5. Powers exercisable by the Lieutenant Governor or Board of Revenue Lower Provinces under Act IV (B.C.) of

\textsuperscript{5}The Gazette of India Part I, February 7, 1874 and September 12, 1874, P.54.


\textsuperscript{7}Govt. of India, Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce Department Notification No. 564, dated the 30th June 1874. Republished in the Assam Gazette of 17th July 1874, Part I B, P.390.

\textsuperscript{8}Govt. of India, H.D. Notification No. 332, dated 15th April 1874, and No. 1,149 dated 12th September 1874. Assam Gazette Part I B, P.192.

\textsuperscript{9}Govt. of India, H.D. No. 313 dated 12th September, 1874. Assam Gazette Part I B, P.192.
1870 (Court of Wards);  

6. Powers exercisable by the Lieutenant Governor or Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, under Act VIII (R.C.) of 1866 (Sale of Under-tenures);  


8. Powers vested in or exercisable by the Lieutenant Governor under Regulation V of 1873, a Regulation for the Peace and Government of certain districts on the North East Frontier of Bengal;  

9. Powers of the Board of Revenue under Section 23, Act VII of 1870 (Court fees);  

10. Powers of specially appointing officers to exercise the powers of a Magistrate of Police under Act XIII of 1869;  

11. Powers of a Local Government under the Civil Pension Code;  


14. Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce No. 467, dated 23rd June, 1876, Assam Gazette Part II, P. 266.  


12. Powers of a Lieutenant Governor, Board of Revenue and the Commissioner of Division under Act V (B.C.) of 1875 (the Bengal Survey Act)\(^{17}\);

13. Powers which were vested in the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal under Act I (B.C.) of 1869 (an Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Act III (B.C.) of 1869 (an Act to enable police officers to arrest without warrant persons guilty of cruelty to animals)\(^{18}\);

14. Powers of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal under Act IV (B.C.) of 1873 (an Act for registering Births and Deaths)\(^{19}\);

15. Powers under Act V (B.C.) of 1869 (an Act to empower the Lieutenant Governor to direct Courts of Sessions to be held in different towns in a district)\(^{20}\);

16. Power to authorise any Assistant Commissioner or Extra Assistant Commissioner in Sylhet and Cachar to take charge of the current duties of a Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional officer when either of these officers was absent from the Headquarters, and in case of any sudden

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\(^{17}\)Chief Commissioner's Judicial Deptt. Notification dated the 10th May 1878. Assam Gazette Part I. P.168.


\(^{20}\)H.D. No.967 dated the 22nd June 1882. Assam Gazette Part II. P.282.
emergency, to exercise any of the powers conferred on a Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional officer by or under the Land and Revenue Regulation. In case of the Assam Valley districts, the Chief Commissioner was empowered to exercise the same power; 21

17. Powers under the Christian Marriage Act, XV of 1872 to appoint Marriage Registrars and to license persons to grant certificates of marriage between Native christians in the Native States situated in the Khasi Hills; 22

18. Powers to exercise, with respect to the Maharaja of Manipur, the functions assigned by Sub sections (1), (2) and (3) of Section 433 of the Code of Civil Procedure to the Governor General in Council; 23

19. Power to exercise certain functions and control in respect to Railways; 24

20. Powers which were vested in the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal by Act IV (B.C.) of 1866 (an Act for


24 P.W.D. Notification No. 27 dated the 28th June, 1890. Assam Gazette Part II. P. 371.
the prohibition of the practice of inoculation). Thus, the Chief Commissioner had, in respect of all the General Acts of the Governor General in Council, the powers of a Local Government. Other powers were delegated to him under Acts VIII and XII of 1874, which generally speaking, placed him in the position of a Local Government in regard to all Regulations and Acts, whether of the Legislative council of India or that of Bengal, then in force in the Province.

The Chief Commissioner exercised complete control over all departments of the administration. As the Chief Commissioner desired to inspect the work of Departments, the Governor General in council entrusted him with the duties of departmental inspection. The Deputy Commissioners were made immediately subordinate to him without the intervention either of a judicial commissioner or of Commissioners of Divisions.

Apart from the power and responsibility of supervision and control, he had to take upon himself a

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27H. D. Resolution No. 977 dated 19th December, 1874 published in the Gazette of India, December 19, 1874.
considerable load of routine administration, he was also the Inspector General of Police, Inspector General of Jails and the Sanitary Commissioner. Having the powers of a Local Government, the Chief Commissioner had to formulate policies and take decisions in all matters relating to the administration of the Province.

The administrative management of the Province was entrusted to the Chief Commissioner, who was answerable to the Government of India. He had no Executive Council to share his responsibility. Subject to the controlling authority of the Government of India over the Executive and Legislative functions, the Chief Commissioner was practically supreme in his Province although he could not impose any additional tax nor make any change in the prevailing system of revenue management. In the matter of finance, however, his power was very limited. He was completely dependent on the Central Government even for trifling expenditure. The Government of India retained very extensive financial control over the Chief Commissioner of Assam and directly interfered in the financial administration of the Province.

Finally the Chief Commissioner had to shoulder considerable amount of political work in the maintenance of friendly relations with the surrounding tribes and this was his special responsibility.
Although in purely judicial matters, the High Court of Fort William in Bengal exercised directing and Appellate authority over the plains districts of Assam, the same authority was vested in the Chief Commissioner in respect of Hill districts and certain frontier tracts except over European British subjects who continued to be subject to the jurisdiction of the High Court. These hill districts were administered under special rules, originally drawn up under the Act XXII of 1860, which removed the Garo Hills, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the Naga Hills from the jurisdiction of the High Court, which was subsequently repealed by the Scheduled Districts Act XIV of 1874.

By the Assam Frontier Tracts Regulation, 1880 (No. II of 1880), power was given to the Chief Commissioner with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council to direct that any enactment in force in any frontier tract should cease to be in force therein, and this regulation (with the additional power of extension conferred by Regulation III of 1884) had been brought into force in all the districts and the frontier tracts.

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28 Report on the Administration of Assam for the year 1911-12 Part II, P. 50. The Scheduled Districts Act, 1874 (Act XIV of 1874) may be seen in Appendix IV, II.
referred to above. Under its provisions, the operation of the enactments relating to civil and criminal procedure, court fees, stamps, transfer of property and Registration had been barred, except in cases when such enactments never were in force. The Civil Procedure Code, for instance, was never extended to the hill districts, and it was therefore unnecessary to include this in the declaration under Regulation II of 1880, issued in regard to these districts. A simpler system of administering justice in civil and criminal matters had been prescribed by rules framed under Section 6 of the Scheduled Districts Act, XIV of 1874.

By these rules the Chief Commissioner was himself the Chief Appellate authority in civil and criminal cases. The Deputy Commissioner exercised the combined powers of District and Sessions Judge and Magistrate of a District, and the Assistant Commissioners and Extra Assistant Commissioners, the powers of Magistrates and Musifs. The Judicial administration in all petty civil and criminal cases was usually carried on by village Tribunals, presided over by headmen chosen from among the people themselves, whose procedure was completely free from legal technicalities and were not reduced to writing.

30 Ibid.

The Assam Frontier Tracts Regulation, 1880 (Regulation No. II of 1880) and the Assam Frontier Tracts Regulation, 1884 and also the relevant Notifications issued thereunder, together with the relevant Notifications issued under Regulation V of 1873 may be seen in Appendix V, III.
Till 1912, Assam had no Legislative Council of her own.

There were three ways by which Legislation was undertaken for Assam. The first was the ordinary method, common to the whole of India, of passing Acts in the Council for making Laws and Regulations.

The second was the method of passing Regulations in accordance with the provisions of 33 Victoria, Chapter 3, Section 1 (an Act to make better provision for making Laws and Regulations for certain parts of India, and for certain other purposes relating thereto). This Act was extended by the Secretary of State for India in Council to the districts of Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, and the Garo, Khuli & Jaintia, and Naga Hills, from 1st January, 1973; to the district of Goalpara from the 15th December 1873; and to the district of Sylhet from the August 1874. Under its provisions, the Chief Commissioner had power to propose to the Governor General in Council drafts of any Regulations, together with the reasons for proposing the same, for the peace and good Government of territories under his administration. Such drafts, when approved by the Governor General in council, and after they had received the Governor General's assent, were published in the Gazette of India and thereupon had the force of law. This method, which was first adopted in
Assam in 1873, had been frequently resorted to. 31

The third method was to make use of Section 5 of Act XIV of 1874, the Scheduled Districts Act which declares that "the Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in council, might from time to time, by notification in the Gazette of India, and also in the local gazette (if any) extend to any of the Scheduled districts, or to any part of any such district, any enactment which is in force in any part of British India at the date of such extension." By Section 7, clause (c), of the same Act, the Chief Commissioner was empowered to direct by what authority any jurisdiction, powers, or duties incident to the operation of any enactment for the time being in force in a Scheduled district should be exercised or performed. 32

Assam was one of the Scheduled districts under this Act (Schedule 1, part X.); and the Act was declared to be in force in the Province by notification on the 7th November 1877. Since that date several Acts in force in other parts of India, had, under the power given by Section 5, been declared to be in force in Assam. 33

32Ibid.
The most important Acts of the Governor General in Council which came into force in Assam since 1880 were the following:

The Vaccination Act, XIII of 1880; the Labour Immigration Act, I of 1882, which was superseded by Act, VI of 1901; and the Civil Courts Act, XII of 1887. The regulations proposed by the Chief Commissioner which received the assent of the Governor General-in-Council were - the Frontier Tracts Regulation, II of 1880; the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, I of 1886; the Assam Military Police Regulation, IV of 1890; the Sylhet Jnma Regulation, III of 1891; and the Assam Forest Regulation, VII of 1891. The following important Acts of the Bengal Council were also extended to Assam: The Public Demands Recovery Act, VII of 1880; the Municipal Act III of 1884; and the Private Fisheries Act, II of 1889.34

Under the provision of the Government of India Act, 1912 - which received the Royal assent on 25 June, 1912, a Legislative council was created for Assam on 14 November, 1912. It consisted of 24 members, of whom eleven were elected by various electorates, while 13 were nominated.35

34 Imperial Gazetteer of India (Provincial Series) Eastern Bengal and Assam (1909). P.96.

The Chief Commissioner, who was the President of the Council, could carry out any measure with the support and backing of majority of the official members. The official members were not only supposed to give support to the Government but also to act unitedly in voting down a non-official member's resolution. The Councillors were denied even the right of discussing the budget; the representatives of the people had no voice either in the legislation or in the management of the finances of their Province.

The Council thus being subordinated to the Executive and reduced practically to the position of an Advisory body, the debates and discussions made therein were merely rituals.

It needs to be noted here that the Original method of legislation up to 1834, was by Regulations issued by the Executive councils of Fort William, Fort St. George and Bombay. In course of time it was, however, realised that complicated and intricate early Regulations were not suited to all the Indian races. The various territories subsequently included in the North-Western Provinces were on their annexation, included in the Bengal Presidency and administered according to the Bengal Code. But the less advanced provinces annexed or acquired at a later time were

36ALCP., 26 April, 1917; 6 April 1918.
generally governed under simpler Codes, based on the spirit of the Regulations but modified to suit the circumstances of each special case. The provinces were thus distinguished in to 'Regulation' or 'Non-Regulation' in accordance as they were originally ruled under Regulations framed under the Charter Acts or under the less formal codes. The Regulation provinces were Bengal, Madras, Bombay and Agra. The Principal Non-regulation provinces were the Punjab, Burma, Oudh, the Central Provinces and Assam.

It may be pointed out in this connection that with the development in material progress the distinction between Regulation and Non-Regulation Provinces practically disappeared except as regards certain administrative arrangements. So far as legislation was concerned, the contrast was no longer between Regulation and Non-Regulation areas, but between backward tracts for which the Government of India could legislate executively and the rest of British India where the machinery of a legislative council was required. 37

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

We have noted that in 1905, Assam with a large portion of Bengal was constituted into a Lieutenant Governorship, under the style of 'Eastern Bengal and

Under a Proclamation made on 1 September, 1905, the Government of India appointed Joseph Hampfylde Fuller, C.S.I., C.I.E., of the Indian Civil Service, then Chief Commissioner of Assam to be the first Lieutenant Governor of the province, with all powers and authority incident to that office. The Proclamation also provided that under the Indian Councils Act, 1861, there would be a Legislative Council with 15 councillors whom the Lieutenant Governor might nominate for his assistance in making laws and regulations.

As Lieutenant Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam, Fuller was allowed to draw a salary of Rs.1,00,000 per annum in addition to a sumptuary allowance of Rs. 500 a month hitherto drawn by him as Chief Commissioner.

He was also entitled to the usual personal staff, consisting of a private secretary in lieu of the existing Personal Assistant to the Chief Commissioner and an Aide-de-camp. The Private Secretary, if selected from among the civil officers or military officers in civil employ, would receive a local allowance of Rs. 300 a month, subject to the provisions of article 83 of the Civil Service Regulations. The allowance of a military officer appointed from military duty to this post would be governed by the Army Regulations. The Aide-de-camp, being a military officer, would receive an allowance of
Rs. 260 a month in addition to the pay of his rank. 38

The administration and management of the whole Province was entrusted to the Lieutenant Governor, who was answerable to the Government of India, and through that Government to Her Majesty's Ministers and Parliament. He had no Executive council to share his responsibility as in Madras or Bombay. Subject to the controlling authority of the Government of India over the Executive and Legislative functions, the Lieutenant Governor was practically supreme in his province. Although he could not impose any additional tax nor make any change in the prevailing system of revenue management, but in all other matters of civil administration, his authority was complete and his orders were final. In revenue and provincial finance, his powers were similar to those exercised by the Government of India before the introduction of the system of provincial finance. His power of patronage was extensive, he could fill up all posts carrying a salary not exceeding Rs. 260 a month and all offices not filled by a direct system of recruitment from England. 39

In the permanently settled portion of the province, the power of granting reprieve in cases in which a sentence of death had been passed vested in him. The hill districts


and frontier tracts of Assam, which were administered under special rules framed under the Scheduled Districts Act, (XIV of 1874) were not subordinate to the jurisdiction of the High Court of Calcutta. In respect of these territories, the final appellate authority in the majority of criminal cases rested with the Lieutenant Governor. Sentences of death and transportation required his confirmation in these tracts. 40

It will not perhaps be out of place to make here a brief comparative study of Chief Commissionership with other types of Local Governments namely Governorship and Lieutenant Governorship and to discuss briefly about relationship between the Supreme Government and the Local Governments.

GOVERNORSHIP

The Governorship had its origin in the presidency form of Government. The office of the Governor can be traced to the inauguration of the British connections with India. The famous Elizabethan Charter of the 31 December, 160041, which granted "the Company of Merchants of London" the exclusive right of trading into the East Indies, invested

40Ibid. (also see Imperial Gazetteer of India, eastern Bengal and Assam, 1909).
the control of business of the Company in a Governor and twenty four committees - "not bodies but individuals." 42

The two Provinces of Bombay and Madras occupied a superior position as representing the old Presidencies. 43 The civil administration of each was vested in a Governor in Council, whose powers and duties were regulated by Acts of Parliament. A Governor was invested with all powers of a Local Government with a certain degree of independence. The Governor was appointed by the Crown, being usually a person of rank and experience in the political life of England. The Council consisted of two members who were also appointed by the Crown. They must have served for at least twelve years in India and must belong to the Indian Civil Service. The Governor possessed the same power as the Governor General to overrule his council in case of emergency. The distribution of business also followed the same general plan as in the Council of the Governor General. They enjoyed the right of communicating direct with the Secretary of State. Another privilege of the Governors was that they were extra ordinary members of the Governor General's Council, should the Council meet within their


43 The term Presidency is still used in official Documents. In common usage, it is frequently applied to the Seat of Government, including Calcutta.
Presidency. The maximum salaries as fixed by Act of Parliament were Rs. 1,70,000 for a Governor and Rs. 44,000 for a member of Council.

**Lieutenant Governorship**

The origin of the Lieutenant Governorship may be traced to an Act of 1836 of the Parliament which amended the Charter Act of 1833 and empowered the Governor General to appoint a Lieutenant Governor for North Western Provinces in the place of the fourth Presidency of Agra created under the 1833 Act. Accordingly, the first Lieutenant Governorship was created in the North Western Provinces in 1836. The Lieutenant Governorship of Bengal and Punjab owed their origin to the Charter Act of 1833 and those of Burma and Eastern Bengal and Assam to the Indian Councils Act of 1861.

The Lieutenant Governors were appointed by the Governor General subject to the approval of the Crown. They must have served for at least ten years in India. The extent of their authority might be declared and limited by the Governor General in Council with the sanction of the Secretary of State.

Their maximum salary, as fixed by the Act of Parliament was Rs. 1,00,000 per annum.

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45 Ibid. p. 32.
A Lieutenant Governor was entitled to the usual personal staff, consisting of a private Secretary and an Aide-de-camp.

The Lieutenant Governor was answerable to the Government of India and through Government to Her Majesty’s Ministers and Parliament. He was practically supreme in his province. But he could not impose any additional tax nor make any change in the prevailing system of revenue management. His power of patronage was extensive, he could fill up all posts carrying a salary not exceeding Rs.250 a month and all offices not filled by a direct system of recruitment from England. The power of granting reprieve in cases in which a sentence of death had been passed was vested in him.46

**CHIEF COMMISSIONERSHIP**

The Chief Commissionership did not owe its origin to any Act of Parliament. The Parliamentary Act of 1854 which provided for taking up any territory in British India and then providing for its administration did not spell out what exactly should be the form of Government. Parliamentary recognition to this form of Government came as late as in 1870 and that again, rather indirectly, when an Act of that year empowered the Chief Commissioners along with the

Governors and Lieutenant Governors to propose draft regulations for the "Scheduled Districts."

The Salary of a Chief Commissioner was fixed at Rs. 50,000 per annum but in case of the Central provinces this was raised to Rs. 62,000 in consideration of the addition of Berar to his charge. 47

From the above, it would appear that Governorship which meant a full government with an executive as well as a legislative council was the best and the most complete form of Local Government which could be given to any British Indian Province. The status of a Governor was much higher than that of a Lieutenant Governor.

Lieutenant Governorship was not considered a full Government in the sense that it had no executive council to share its responsibility. It also did not enjoy the privilege of communicating direct with the Secretary of State for India. Otherwise, a Lieutenant Governor was entrusted with all powers, functions and responsibilities of a Local Government.

The powers and functions of a Chief Commissioner who administered his Province on behalf of the Governor General were, however, very limited. His complete dependence on the Governor General in Council lowered his status and position. Though for all practical purposes, a

Chief Commissioner exercised almost all the powers of a Local Government, such powers being delegated, were circumscribed by the authority of the Governor General. Not owing its origin to any Statute, a Chief Commissioner occupied a lower position to that of a Lieutenant Governor.

CONTROL EXERCISED BY THE SUPREME GOVERNMENT OVER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

All the Local Governments alike were under the superintendence and control of the Governor General in Council. They must obey orders received from him and must communicate to him their own proceedings. This subordination was derived partly from an Act of Parliament and partly from the delegation of authority by the Governor General to Lieutenant Governors and Chief Commissioners. Subject to the provision of the Acts and the rules made thereunder the direction and control of the civil and military Government of India was vested in the Governor General in Council. He was responsible for the entire administration of British India and for control exercised in varying degrees over the Native States.46

The actual work of administration was, however, divided between the Government of India and the Local Governments. The Governor General in Council retained in its hands all matters relating to foreign relations, the defences of the country, general taxation, currency, debt

46. Madra, A. B., The Viceroy and the Governor General of India, P. 48. (1940)
and tariffs, posts, telegraphs and railways. The Local
Governments were entrusted with the responsibility of
ordinary internal administration such as, the assessment
and collection of revenues, education, medical and sanitary
arrangements, irrigation, buildings and roads etc. But in
all these matters, the Government of India exercised a
general control.

It laid down the guide lines of general policy to
be followed in administering the subjects allotted to the
Local Governments. From the administrative reports
submitted annually by the local Governments, the Government
of India was able to know how far the local Government
followed the general guide lines. The Government of India
also employed a number of Inspecting or advisory officers
to inspect and report on the administration of the subjects
left to their care. The Central or Supreme Government
controlled the annual budgets of the Local Governments.
Every new appointment of importance, every large addition
even to minor establishments required the specific
sanction of the Government of India. There was moreover a
wide scope of appeal to the Government of India from
officials or private persons who felt aggrieved by the
action of the Local Government.

The executive authority of the Governor General
in Council in respect of the administration of Central
subjects and of all subjects in centrally administered
areas, i.e., the Minor or Chief Commissioners' Provinces was complete in theory and practice. Over and above, the Government of India had full power of superintendence and control over the Local Governments in respect of reserved subjects and limited power of supervision in respect of transferred subjects. 49

The Chief Commissioners could not disregard the orders of the Government of India. It was their duty to keep the Government of India informed of their actions. But in practice, the Local Governments were allowed to exercise considerable powers. The major provinces had their own budgets and a share in certain items of revenue raised in the province. The more important provinces had their Legislative Councils. But in respect of legislation over local matters relating to the Province, the approval of the Government of India was necessary. Certain bills required the previous sanction of the Governor General. This enabled the Government of India to exercise its control over the Provincial Governments. 50

The Central Government kept in its own hands powers which concerned the whole empire. Its financial control over the Provincial Governments was very extensive. The Charter Act of 1833 had centralised the administration of the country's finances in the hands of the Government

49 Ibid. P. 45.

50 Ibid. P. 46.
of India. The Act of 1833 vested the superintendence of the revenues and expenditure of the country in the Secretary of State in Council. A system of financial decentralisation was, however, inaugurated by Lord Mayo which was afterwards developed with beneficial effect.

With the spread of education in India, the Government of India assumed more and more powers to deal with many questions of a general nature raised by the growth of national feeling among the educated classes.

Sir Bampfylde Fuller, who was the Chief Commissioner of Assam said that the Government of India, as a rule, contented themselves with laying down general principles and watching the effect that was given to them. At the same time the Government kept a very strict watch upon the creation of new appointments or the enhancement of salaries. This correctly expressed the extent of interference in provincial affairs.61