

1. Examine Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's perspectives on the States Reorganisation Commission and his rationale for advocating smaller states?

Introduction

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a key architect of the Indian Constitution and a visionary social reformer, offered **critical and nuanced perspectives** on state reorganization in post-independence India. His views, articulated in his seminal work *"Thoughts on Linguistic States"* (1955), went beyond mere linguistic affinity and emphasized **administrative efficiency, social justice, and balanced regional development**. He welcomed the formation of the **States Reorganisation Commission (SRC)** but also critiqued its limitations and foresaw challenges arising from exclusive reliance on linguistic principles.

Ambedkar's Views on the States Reorganisation Commission (SRC)

1. Qualified Support for Linguistic States:

- Ambedkar acknowledged the role of linguistic states in promoting cultural and administrative cohesion.
- He famously stated, *"One state, one language is the rule; one language, many states is the exception."*

2. Critique of Linguistic Chauvinism:

- He warned against **narrow linguistic parochialism** and potential **regional chauvinism**, asserting that linguistic reorganization alone could **exacerbate inter-regional tensions**.
- He called for a **holistic approach**, balancing language with **economic self-sufficiency and administrative viability**.

3. Administrative Efficiency Over Identity Politics:

- Ambedkar believed that the **primary aim** of reorganization must be to improve governance.
- Quote: "The first and foremost consideration must be the requirement of efficiency of administration."

Rationale for Advocating Smaller States

1. Balanced Regional Development:

- Smaller states were seen as **better positioned to address local needs**, reduce neglect of peripheral areas, and enable **targeted development**.
- "It is better to have a number of small states than a few large ones," Ambedkar argued.

2. Administrative Accessibility:

- He believed **smaller administrative units** could bring governance **closer to the people**, making the state more responsive and accountable.

3. Safeguard Against Majority Domination:

- Ambedkar feared that **larger states might lead to the suppression of minorities** by dominant regional majorities.
- "As the state is made bigger, the ratio between majority and minority becomes imbalanced, giving an opportunity for the majority to suppress the minority."

4. Proposed Splitting Large States:

- He suggested dividing **Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh** into multiple smaller states for better management and representation.

Contemporary Relevance

- The later creation of **Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana** reflects Ambedkar's foresight on the benefits of smaller, manageable states.
- His framework remains relevant in ongoing debates around **statehood demands, decentralization, and regional equity**.

Conclusion

Dr. Ambedkar's vision on state reorganization combined **pragmatism with idealism**. While he recognized the role of linguistic identity, he emphasized **economic viability, administrative efficiency, and social justice** as the true pillars of federal stability. His advocacy for **smaller states** reflected his deep commitment to **inclusive governance and national integration**.

2. Critically assess key achievements of Burgula Ramakrishna Rao as the first elected Chief Minister of Hyderabad State.

Introduction

Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, elected in **March 1952**, became the **first Chief Minister of Hyderabad State**, marking the **transition from princely autocracy to democratic governance**. Leading the first popular government post-Nizam, his tenure was characterized by a mix of progressive reform and political turbulence. While he introduced several landmark initiatives, his government was also criticized for not fully addressing emerging regional discontent.

Key Achievements

1. Democratic Transition

- Rao's government symbolized the **democratic consolidation** of the newly integrated Hyderabad State.
- He headed a **multi-party assembly** where the Congress secured 93 seats, initiating **parliamentary procedures** and institutional accountability after years of princely and military rule.

2. Land Reforms and Tenancy Protection

- Enacted key legislation including the **Prevention of Eviction Act (1952–53)**, ensuring **security of tenure** for farmers and curbing landlord excesses.
- These reforms aimed to **stabilize agrarian relations** in a region where rural inequalities were deeply entrenched.

3. Economic Integration with Indian Union

- Replaced regional currencies like the **Hyderabad Rupee and Osmania Sikka** with the Indian Rupee.
- Facilitated **seamless economic unification** and integration with the broader national market.

4. Educational Reforms and Language Policy

- Introduced **Telugu as the medium of instruction**, aligning education policy with the cultural aspirations of the majority Telugu-speaking population.
- Elementary schools using Telugu increased from **4,000 to 14,000**, expanding linguistic access.

5. Administrative and Cultural Reforms

- Reorganized administrative boundaries, including the creation of **Khammam district in 1953**, enhancing local governance.
- Renamed **Asafia Library as State Central Library**, symbolizing cultural democratization post-Nizam rule.

6. Infrastructure and Inter-state Cooperation

- Accelerated the **Nagarjuna Sagar Project**, envisioned earlier, by setting up **inter-state regulatory boards** with Andhra.
- This helped initiate large-scale irrigation planning for agrarian upliftment.

Challenges and Criticisms

- **Mulki Agitation (1952):** Failure to enforce **Mulki employment rules** led to **student-led unrest**, revealing administrative insensitivity to local grievances.
- **No-confidence Motion:** Within a year, the government faced internal dissent, indicating **fragile political stability**.
- **Language Shift Backlash:** While promoting Telugu, the **marginalization of Urdu** alienated some segments accustomed to the Nizam-era system.

Conclusion

Burgula Ramakrishna Rao's tenure laid a **democratic and reformist foundation** for Hyderabad State. His achievements in **land reform, education, and infrastructure** were significant. However, the **failure to address regional anxieties**, especially over employment and identity, **undermined public confidence** and sowed seeds of discontent that would culminate in future Telangana movements. His legacy is one of both **pioneering governance and unfinished reconciliation**.