

BA LLB II SEM
HISTORY PPT LECTURE
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THE DELHI SULTANATE

ADMINISTRATION OF DELHI SULTANATE:

Discussion on;

1. Provincial Administration
2. Local Administration

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

For the smooth functioning of administration the sultanate of delhi was further divided into several provinces, called iqta. Iqta system was a unique type of land distribution and administrative system evolved during the reign of iltutmish.

As a result of expansion of sultanate, the entire sultanate was divided into eleven iqtas.

Maximum number of iqtas reached the figure of 23 during the reign of MBT.

- The administration of iqtaas was controlled by the governors known as Muqta/ vali/ Nazim/ Iqtadar etc.
- Iqta was a exact replica of the central govt.
- Iqtadar was appointed by sultan on the basis of his capabilities.
- In some provinces, sultan appointed an impirical officer called Saahib-i-diwan or Khawaja, to check on the powers and activities of the iqtadar.
- Iqtaas were transferable. It means that the grants of iqtaa did not imply a right to the land. It was just an administrative unit.

- To maintain law and order and tax collection were the main function of the iqtadar.
- Iqtadar collected revenue from iqta, defrayed their own expenses, sent the fawazil (surplus) to the centre.
- Iltutmish gave this system an institutional form.
- The number of iqtas were not fixed in delhi sultanate.

The iqtadari system witnessed numerous changes during the sultanate period. Initially iqta was a revenue-yielding piece of land which was assigned in a lieu of salary. However during FST's reign, it became hereditary.

Results were disastrous as in the reign of weaker sultan, iqtadar proclaimed their independence and iqta became separate state such as gujarat, malwa, bengal, jaunpur etc.

UNIT

(Province) Iqta



(District) Shiq



(Tehsil) Pargana



(Village) Gram

HEAD

Iqtadar

Shiqdar

Amil

Khutt, Muqaddam,
Choudhary

Shiq: The provinces were further divided into shiq or districts which were governed by shiqdars, a military officer. Balban initiated this unit of administration.

Pargana: The shiq were further divided into parganas or tehsil which was an aggregate of villages. Amil was the main administrative and revenue officer at this level.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

- Village was the smallest unit of administration. The functioning and administration remained basically the same as it had existed during the pre-Turkish phase.
- Khutt, Muqaddam, Choudhary were the main village functionaries.
 - Muqaddam was the head of village, choudhary was revenue collecting officer, patwari keeps the record of the village lands.

- The panchayats were responsible for delivering justice.

During the sultanate period no efforts was made to disturb the work of the local self government institutions and they continued to work as they had been doing in the earlier times.

Thus administration at the local level remained unaffected by the political change at the higher levels.

Conclusion

The system of administration during the sultanate period was quite different from the traditional system of government prevailing in ancient times.

It was theocratic, military and feudal in character and lacked the goodwill and support of the people.

The feeling of mutual attachment between the ruler and the ruled was mostly absent and there was a wide gap between the two. The rulers were mainly concerned with preservation of their authority and not with the welfare of the people.

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THANK YOU

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