

History of USA. (2023)

(Q5)

Discuss the mainstream agenda of Theodore Roosevelt's domestic level Square Deal program.

INTRODUCTION :

"Speak softly, but with a big stick".

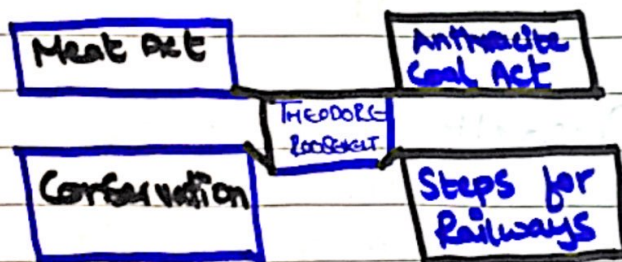
Franklin

Theodore Roosevelt was one of the youngest US President in the history of America. He is known for his **Reformist vision and strong foreign policy**. Moreover, he got the opportunity to become **26th President of the US**. He belonged to a rich family, but he suffered due to his health and family issues. Nevertheless, he was the one who took US towards reforms and progress and he has credits to take in **US's success** in the **21st Century**. His Square Deal Program was one of a kind and it aimed to hold the elites

responsible for their bad actions.

THE SQUARE DEAL PROGRAMME:

Theodore Roosevelt was a reformist and he took steps to empower the miners from owners of industries and he also sought to conserve the natural environment. In addition, according to researchers, he also supported women empowerment in the US. Following are a few actions which Roosevelt took under the Square Deal programme:



MEAT ACT :

During his tenure, Roosevelt took steps for proper hygiene of meat industry. According to the article, "The Jungle" written by a scholar stated that the sanitary condition of meat in the US is extremely bad. In response, Roosevelt took steps to introduce sanitation, food

inspections and cleanliness.

Conservation:

The issue of climate change which is being neglected nowadays was realised way back by Roosevelt in 1903. The Conservation act was aimed at preserving the **nature habitat** and protecting the surroundings from pollution.

Steps taken by Roosevelt:

Roosevelt preserved around 25000 acres of forest land and 1500 water sites. Furthermore, in the book, "A complete book on US Presidents", the author said that he was able to create many green parks in Florida as well.

WHAT DID HE SAY ABOUT CONSERVATION?

It has been quoted in the book: "A complete book on US Presidents" that he said:

"Do not waste the land you have been blessed with and recognize its usefulness. Create

an environment prosperous
for your children"

"Theodore Roosevelt.

The Anthracite Coal Act:

He Around 150000 miners marched around the country against the coal mine owners. The workers demanded that their wages should be increased and their working hours should be reduced. The mine owners did not listen to them, but Roosevelt did!

What did Roosevelt do about it?

Under the Square Program deal, Roosevelt did a very unusual act. He invited the coal miners to his presidency! He tried to convince the people and owners to listen to what their workers were asking them. The coal mine owners refused to act in accordance with what Roosevelt asked them. Resultantly, Roosevelt got angry at them and threatened to shut their mines.

* Consequence:

Consequently, the coal miners increased their wages upto 10 percent and reduced working hours to 9 hours.

Anti-Trust Policy:

Roosevelt also followed an anti-trust policy. The State Government has written that under this policy, Roosevelt ~~and~~ took legal actions against corporations. The major goal of this policy was to strike a balance between enterprises and corporation. Thereby, he sued a company as well for taking illegal practices into account for its regulation.

Did he do anything further?

Roosevelt not only sued one company but according to different reports, he sued 43 companies and also established Bureau Corporation to look into the illegal practices.

Steps taken for Railways:

Roosevelt, under the Square Deal program, also created an organization known as ICC to look into the illegal practices taking place in railway operations. It acted as a **regulatory authority**. Moreover, the organization stopped the railway authorities from giving discounts to its favourite customers.

Shortcoming of the Square Deal program:

One Regardless of the fact that the program was one of a kind, but it did not create opportunities for women. Although Roosevelt supported women and their role in traditional families, but he did not do anything about women's right to vote.

Roosevelt's stance on women's right to vote:

Upon asking, Roosevelt said about women rights:

“ I do support women, but I do not consider women's right to vote as important as other

matters".

He could not do anything regarding women in America.

Conclusion:

Thus, the Square deal program was a progressive idea, but it did not do much for women's rights.

Moreover, Roosevelt has been an asset for the US as he had a very wise vision for the future of US.

After he died of Malaria and other problems, he was replaced by **William Howard Taft**. President Roosevelt wanted to serve the nation as he has rightly said:

"The President is a steward for the people. He can do anything to fulfil the national interests ^{but} unless the constitution ^{is} must not be violated".
