**M N ROY**

**Question: What is organized democracy of M.N. Roy? Analyze its characteristics and limitations. (2014)**

**Introduction**

Manbendra Nath Roy was born in 24 Pargana Dist of West Bengal in 1887 and died in Dehradun in 1954in Uttarakhand at the age of 66 years. M. N. Roy was a twentieth century Indian philosopher. Roy met Lenin in Moscow in 1920, and went on to become an international ranking communist leader. Nevertheless, in September 1929 he was expelled from the Communist International for various reasons. He returned to India in December 1930 and was sentenced to six years imprisonment for his role in the Kanpur Communist Conspiracy Case. M.N. Roy expounded a different kind of democracy known as organized democracy or new democracy. The basic Characteristics of Roy’s organized democracy are explained as follow;

1. **Roy as an Individualist:** Roy was an individualist and believed in individual freedom. According to him, individual is above of all the institutions and organization existing in society. In his political career he left communist party due to its denial of individual freedom which he felt that it was against human nature. He viewed that the individual always struggle for achieving his freedom and it is his natural right.
2. **Party less Democracy:** Roy was very much critical to party system democracy. In modern times people are aware and they have their reasoning power. So, there it is not essential to have any political party. The leadership of parties are so much dominating it member that they are working like dead machines simply obeying the common of the party leaders. Therefore, according to him, the party system is totally unhealthy for democracy.
3. **Structure of Organized Democracy:** Roy gave draft constitution for which India was to be model of organized democracy. In his organized democracy the ultimate sovereign power was to be vested with people. There should be Local People Committee in each village and these committees are to be elected for a period of one year on the basis of adult franchise. At centre there was to be a Supreme People’s Council consisting of an elected Governor-General, a Council of State and a Federal Assembly. There shall be an elected Governor – General for a period of 5 years. He will be elected by the people directly.
4. **Constitutional Principles:** Part 1 of drafted constitution of M. N Roy declared popular sovereignty. It says that supreme sovereign power belongs to entire people who have right to change and modify the political institutions. The people have the right to revolt against oppressive rule of the state. The people will be final source of authority. There should be democratic constitution and in that constitution some fundamental rights are to be adopted to uplift the socio-economic condition of the people.
5. **Federal Union:**  The Federal Union will cover the British India and Indian State and the Provinces shall be formed on the basis of language and cultural homogeneity and they should have the right to break away from the union. The Provincial People’s Council shall have the right to entertain the proposals regarding the concern of the provinces and these should be kept out from the Federal Union.

**Limitation**

There are some limitations of Roy’s organized democracy. These limitations are explained as follows;

1. First of all he said about the individual liberty. It is right that individual freedom is essential for the people to develop their personality. But, for the greater interest of society some limitations should be imposed on individual liberty. M.N Roy did not say anything about the reasonable restrained on individual liberty.
2. In modern times it is not possible to imagine democracy without political parties. It is political parties’ through which the people can form government and express their feelings. M.N Roy in his organized democracy did support the existing of political parties.
3. Roy’s view regarding the structure of organized democracy is not clear. He said that base of his the structure of government should be villages. It is right that village people are to e empowered. But he did not realize that most of the people of villages are illiterate. For success of democracy education is most essential. Roy did not say anything about the education of common people in his organized democracy.
4. Roy in his constitutional principles said about the popular sovereignty. According to him, the source of power is people. People can revolt and remove the government if it goes against the interest of people. But, in his organized democracy he did not mentioned any device of application of popular sovereignty as it is seen in direct democratic system.
5. In his organized democracy he mentioned about the federal system. But, in his federal system he did not allotted the functions between the central and state government. There was also no any mention of residuary power that in which government this power will exist.

**Conclusion**

It true that there are some drawbacks of M.N. Roy’s organized democracy, but it should mentioned that he was one of the realists. He knew that majority people of live in the villages. Indian democracy reflects only in villages. Therefore, he wanted Indian democracy should initiate from the villages. The villagers should actively participate in organized democracy. The principles of democracy which he said about are mostly common with the democratic states of contemporary times.