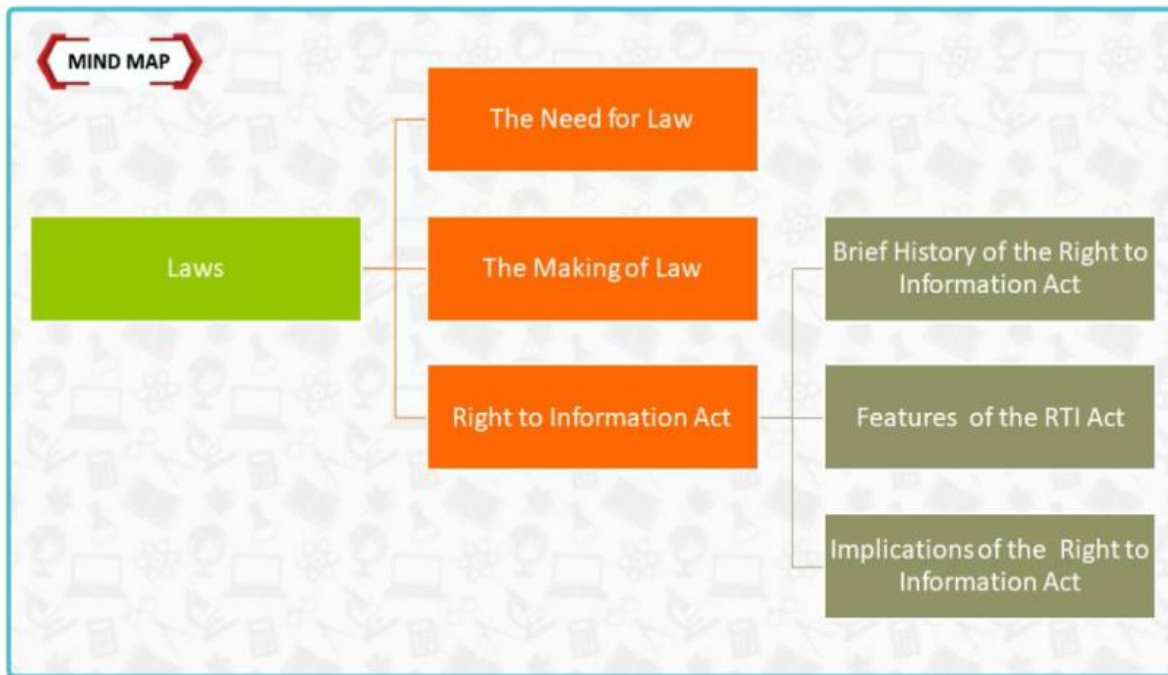


DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, MANDLA ROAD, JABALPUR
CLASS NOTES ON CIVICS

CHAPTER 25 - THE MAKING OF LAWS

BASIC CONCEPTS



I. CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION.

1. b. Constitution
2. c. Rajasthan
3. c. 2002
4. a. 12 October 2005
5. c. Jammu and Kashmir

II. WRITE WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE.

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. False

III. FILL IN THE BLANKS.

1. rules, guidelines
2. equal
3. ordinary
4. The National Commission for People's Right to Information (NCPRI)
5. threatens, security

IV. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN ONE OR TWO SENTENCES.

1. What is a law?
Law is a system of rules and guidelines which are necessary to govern a society.
2. How does a bill become an act?
The bill, when signed by the President, becomes a law and is thereafter known as an Act.
3. Which organisation led the movement that demanded the formulation of the RTI Act?
The Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) led the movement that demanded the formulation of the RTI Act.
4. When did the RTI Act finally come into force?
The RTI Act finally came into force on 12th October 2005.
5. Who can request for information under the RTI Act?
A citizen of India can request for information under the RTI Act.

V. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN BRIEF.

1. Why do we need laws?
We need laws because they act as guidelines about what is acceptable in the society and what is not. They help in maintaining order and peace in society. Without laws, there would be chaos and conflict among social groups and individuals.
2. What is the procedure followed in India to make laws?
The following procedure is followed for making laws in India:

- i. First Reading: A bill is first read in a House of Parliament when a member of the House introduces it and also explains the purpose of the bill.
- ii. Second Reading: The bill is discussed thoroughly by members who can then suggest possible changes. It may also be scrutinised by a select committee.
- iii. Third Reading: The bill is drafted again after making suitable changes. It is then presented and put to vote. If the majority of the members present vote in favour of the bill, it is passed.
- iv. Bill in the Second House: Here it goes through the same procedure. If passed, it is sent to the President. The second House may return the bill with suggestions. President summons a joint session in case there is difference of opinions in the two Houses. If the bill is passed by the joint session, it is sent for the President's assent.
- v. President's Assent: The President either signs the bill or sends it back with suggestions. The Parliament then returns the bill with or without making the suggested changes. When the bill is so returned, the President has to sign it. The bill, when signed by the President, becomes a law and is thereafter known as an Act.

3. What role did the MKSS play in the passing of the RTI Act in India?

The demand for the Right to Information (RTI) Act began with a popular movement led by the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS).

The movement began in Bhim tehsil of Rajasthan, where various governmental development projects were under construction. However, it was suspected that the funds allotted for these projects were being misused by the officials involved. The MKSS therefore demanded that it be given access to the names of the people who had been paid wages, copies of bills and vouchers. After gaining access to the required information, MKSS realised that their fears were not entirely unfounded, thus, exposing the corruption of the officials involved in the projects. This grassroots movement spread to other areas and more and more people realised that information is power in a democracy.

4. What are the rights given to the citizens of India under the RTI Act?

The RTI Act gives to the citizens of India the right to:

- i. Inspect works, documents and records of the public authority.
- ii. Take notes, extracts or certified copies of documents of public authority.
- iii. Take certified samples of material in public works.
- iv. Obtain information from the public authority in the form of printouts, floppies, tapes and so on.

5. What are the provisions of the RTI Act?

The provisions of the RTI Act are as follows:

- i. Only a citizen of India can request for information from a public authority, without having to provide any reasons for seeking the information.
- ii. The information sought under the RTI Act has to be provided within 30 days of the request being submitted.
- iii. The only condition under which information requested may not be provided is if it threatens the security of the country.
- iv. A Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions have been set up to deal with matters connected with the Right to Information. This law applies to all states and union territories of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

HOMEWORK

- (a) Make a list of two activities where the RTI Act was used to expose crime and ensure that justice prevailed.
- (b) Imagine a scenario where you are not allowed to ask any question or seek information about the actions of the government. Would you be able to live in such a society?