

Chapter 3

How the state Government Works

Q.1 Use the terms ‘constituency’ and ‘represent’ to explain who an MLA and how is the person elected?

Ans.: Every state in India has a Legislative Assembly. Each state is divided into different areas or constituencies. From each constituency, the people elect one representative who then becomes a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). They are elected by the people. In this way, we say that the MLAs represent people.

Q.2 How did some MLAs become Ministers? Explain.

Ans.: 1. A political party which has won more than half the constituencies in a state is said to be in majority.

2. After the elections, the MLAs belonging to the ruling party will elect their leader who will become the Chief Minister. 3. The Chief Minister then selects other people as ministers.

Q.3 Why should decisions taken by the Chief Minister and other ministers be debated in the Legislative Assembly?

Ans.: The decisions taken by the Chief Minister and other ministers should be debated in the Legislative Assembly because these ministers are collectively answerable to the assembly. All the members of the Legislative Assembly authorize and supervise their work.

Q.4 What was the problem in Patalpuram? What discussion/action was taken by the following? Fill in the table.

Public meeting
Legislative Assembly
Press Conference
Chief minister

Ans.: In a Patalpuram district, there was no sufficient supply of clean drinking water and lack of proper sanitation. A large number of people died of diarrhea due to the consumption of unclean drinking water. Also, lack of proper medical care aggravated the problems of the people of Patalpuram district.

Discussion and Action taken:

Public Meeting - The people demanded that the concerned MLA should be held responsible and accountable for this deplorable health conditions in the district.

Legislative Assembly - The issues like the need for proper sanitation and healthcare facilities were discussed by the MLAs. They also questioned the government about the steps it has taken to ensure the same.

Press Conference - The Health Minister ensured that the regular supply of clean drinking water will be provided through tanker trucks. He also talked of an initiative to prevent water-borne diseases like diarrhea.

Chief Minister - He promised a high-level inquiry committee which will look into needs of the districts and provide proper sanitation facilities.

Q.5 What is the difference between the work that MLAs do in the Assembly and the work done by government departments?

Ans.:

1. The word 'government' in a common usage refers to various government departments and their heads. They are called as executive part of the government.
2. All the laws made by the MLAs in the Assembly are implemented by the government departments.

3. MLAs through the working of the legislature or the Assembly supervise and authorize the work done by the different government departments.