

# CHAPTER - 1

## Power Sharing

NOTES NOTES:

Quick test:

■ Brussels-Capital region

■ 20% Dutch  
80% French

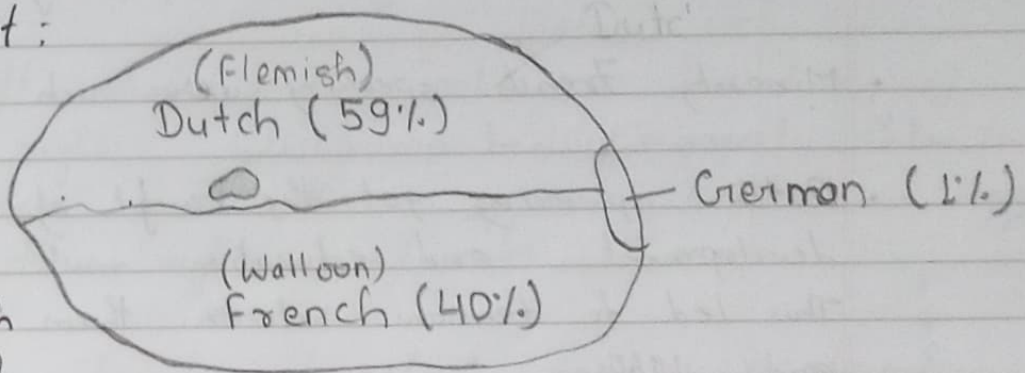
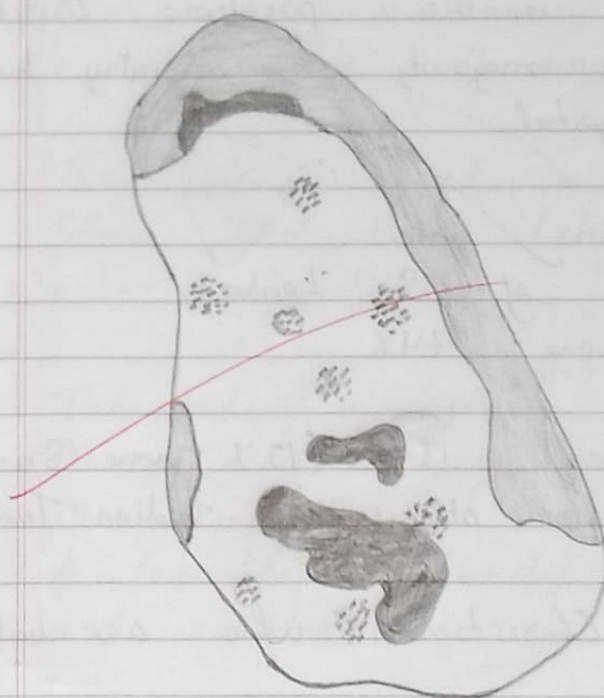


Fig: Ethnic population of Belgium



□ Sinhalese (74%)

■ Indian Tamil (5%)

□ Sri-Lankan Tamil (13%)

▨ Muslim (1%)

□ Christian (7%)

Fig: Ethnic population of Sri Lanka

## \* Belgium and Sri Lanka:

### • Ethnic composition of Belgium:

- 59% lives in Flemish region & speaks Dutch
- 40% lives in Wallonia region and speaks French.
- Remaining 1% speaks German

→ In capital city Brussels, 80% speak French, while 20% are Dutch speaking.

• Minority French speaking were rich and powerful.

• Dutch speaking got the benefit of economic development and education much later.

This led to tensions between them during 1950s and 1960s.

• Brussels represented another problem: Dutch-speaking constitute a majority in country, but a minority in capital.

### • Ethnic composition of Sri Lanka:

→ Sinhala-speakers were 74%.

→ Tamil speakers were 18% (13% were Sri-Lankan Tamils, while others were Indian Tamils)

→ 7% were Christians, who are both, Tamil & Sinhala.

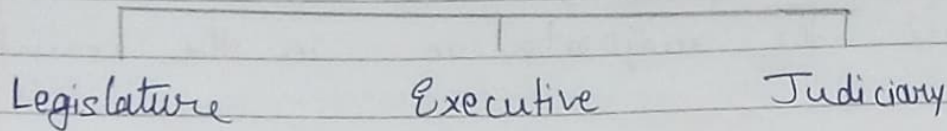


## Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka got independence in 1948, after and Sinhalese sought to secure dominance, and formed the majoritarian in the country.
  - In 1956, an Act was passed, and Sinhalese became official language of Sri Lanka, disregarding Tamil.
  - They also discriminated between them and treated Sinhalese & Tamils differently • in jobs as well.
  - Tamils felt that govt. policies denied equal political rights, discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities, and ignored their rights & interests.
  - Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties & struggles
    - for the recognition of Tamil as an official language
    - for regional autonomy, and
    - equality rights of opportunity.
  - They also wanted a separate independent Tamil ~~Eelam~~ Eelam (state). This conflict turned into Civil War.
- 2
- Thousands of people of both communities died,
  - Many families were forced to leave country
  - Many more lost their livelihoods.
  - A terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life in country.

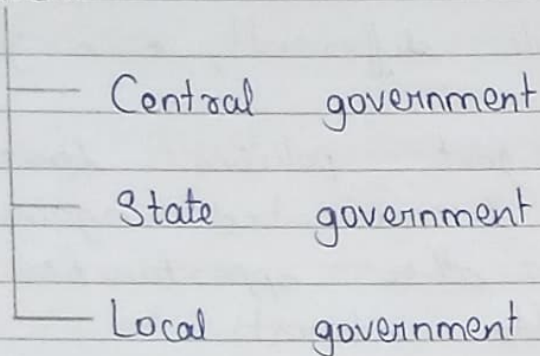
~~Form~~ FORMS OF POWER SHARING:

## i) Horizontal

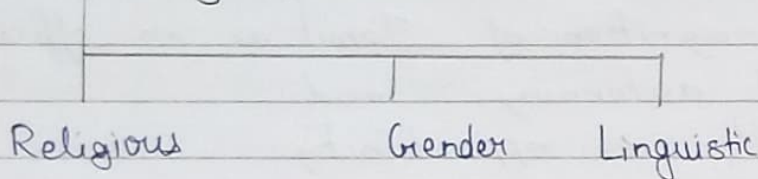


\* Their power is divided equally.

## ii) Vertical



## iii) Social groups



## iv) Political parties and pressure groups; and interest groups:

- Pressure groups are organisations that want to influence the govt. to act in a certain way.
- For example:- Tobacco is ~~injuri~~ injurious for health, but still, it is being sold because of pressure groups.



## Questions & Answers.

- Q.1 Why is power sharing good for democracy? Give any 3 ~~ex~~ suitable arguments. - 5 marks
- Q.2 What are the advantages enjoyed by Sinhala community in Sri Lanka. (Short answer)
- Q.3 What do you mean by 'check & balance'? (Short)
- Q.4 What's the ethnic composition of Belgium? (Short)
- Q.5 Why did Civil war break out in Sri Lanka? List the results of the Civil war.
- Q.6 Differentiate Difference between ~~horizontal~~ <sup>horizontal</sup> ~~modern~~ & vertical power sharing in modern democracy?
- Q.7 Describe any 3 demands of Sri-Lankan Tamils. How did they struggle for their demands?
- Q.8 Describe the path of accommodation adopted in Belgium. What were its ~~consequences~~ consequences?
- Q.9 Why was it felt earlier that undivided political power were better? What changed this notion & why?
- Q.10 What led to tensions between the Dutch speaking and French speaking communities in Belgium during 1950s and 1960s.

Ans-1) Power sharing is good for democracy because of following arguments:

- i) It promotes representation and inclusivity:
  - Power sharing ensures that diverse groups, including minority populations, have a voice in the decision making process.
  - This leads to more inclusive policies and representations, which strengthens democracy.
- ii) It prevents dominance by ~~size~~ a single group.
  - By distributing powers among various groups or parties, power sharing prevents any one group from dominating the political landscape.
  - This helps protect protect the rights of minority groups and prevents the tyranny (oppression) of the majority which was not done in case of Sri Lanka.
- iii) Encourages collaboration and consensus building:
  - Power sharing fosters cooperation and compromise among different groups leading to more effective governance and decision-making.
  - This ~~collaborative~~ collaborative approach helps build trust and legitimacy in democratic institutions.



Ans-2 The Sinhala community in Sri Lanka enjoys advantages such as:

- Official language status.
- Protection and promotion of Buddhism.
- Majority population
- Preferences in education and govt. jobs.

Ans-3 "Check and balance" refers to a system where power is divided among separate govt. branches, allowing each to limit or check the actions of the other, preventing any one branch from becoming too powerful and to make a balance.

Ans-4 The ethnic composition of Belgium is one of mainly 3 linguistic community:

- i) The Flemish region or community, speaking Dutch and comprises of 59 % of the total population.
- ii) Wallonia region, speaking French and comprises of 40 % of total.
- iii) German speaking region, speaking German and comprise 1% only.

Ans-5a. In 1956, An act was passed which made Sinhala as the official language of Sri Lanka, disregarding Tamil.

- The govt. followed preferential policies which discriminated them in govt. jobs and in other fields, too. Because of these inner conflicts, the Civil War started.
- It had the following results:
  - ~~1000~~ Thousands of people of both the communities have been killed.
  - Many families were forced to leave the country as refugees.
  - Many more lost their livelihoods.
  - A ~~terrible~~ terrible setback was caused to the social, cultural and economic life of the country.

Ans-6a Horizontal Power Sharing      Vertical power sharing

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powers are among different branches of govt. at some level.</li> <li>• Each branch has distinct responsibilities and can <del>check</del> balance the others.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powers are between different levels of govt.</li> <li>• Each level has autonomy and decision making authority in specific areas.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|



- 3 types: Legislative, Executive, & Judicial

3 levels - <sup>central</sup> ~~National~~ (Supreme court)  
Regional (State level)  
Local (District court)

Ans 7 → ~~The~~ The 3 demands are:

- i) Language rights: Recognition of Tamil as an official language.
- ii) Regional autonomy: Autonomy for Tamil-dominated provinces through a federal system.
- iii) Equal rights: Tamils also demanded to end discrimination and ~~and~~ violence.

• The struggle involved:

- Non-violent protest and demonstration
- Formation of political parties and militant groups.
- Hunger strikes and self-immolations.

Ans 8 → The accommodation adopted by Belgium are:-

- i) Federalization: Dividing power between central govt. and regional authorities (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels).
- ii) Language recognition: Recognizing Dutch, French, and German as official languages.
- iii) Cultural autonomy: Allowing regions to manage their

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Ans-62      Horizontal Power Sharing      Vertical power sharing

- |  |   |
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own cultural affairs.

Consequences:

- Peaceful co-existence between communities
- Preserved diversity
- Complex governance & decision-making process
- Economic disparities between regions
- Segregation

Ans-9a. Earlier, undivided political power was seen as better due to:

- Efficiency
- Stability
- Unity
- However this notion changed due to:
  - Abuse of power
  - Lack of accountability
  - Diverse interests

- The shift towards divided power and checks and balances was influenced by:
  - Enlightenment ideas.



→ Historical experiences.

→ Democratic evolution.

- Now, constitutionalism, separation of power, and checks and balances are recognized as essential for democratic governance.

Ans-10 → Tensions between Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities in Belgium during 1950s-1960s was due to:

- i) Economic inequality: French-speaking minority held more power and wealth.
- ii) Disproportionate representation: French-speaking community dominated Brussels.

~~Limited access to education and economic opportunities for Dutch-speaking community.~~