

## Ch-1 Power Sharing

### 1. Difference between Pressure Group and Movement.

Answer:

Pressure Group	Movement
(i) Pressure group has a strong organisation	(i) Movement has a loose organisation.
(ii) The decision-making in pressure group is formal and rigid.	(ii) The decision-making in movement is more informal and not rigid.
(iii) Participation of people can be both spontaneous or planned.	(iii) Movement depends upon spontaneous mass participation.

### 2. Difference between Pressure Groups and Political Party.

Answer:

Pressure Group	Political Party
(i) It is a public body outside the political party.	(i) A political party constitutes the government.
(ii) Aim is the promotion of interest of the people by influencing political party.	(ii) Aim is to achieve powers.
(iii) Campaigns for pressurising the government for change in unsuitable policies.	(iii) Helps the government in decision making.
(iv) They work for self interest.	(iv) They work for national interest.
(v) They keep on emerging and dissolving.	(v) Their existence is fixed for a certain period by the election commission.
(vi) They use both constitutional and non constitutional means to demonstrate their demands.	(vi) They use constitutional means for execution of its duties.

### 3. How do pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics.

Answer: Pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics in the following ways:

1. Gain public support by carrying out information campaigns, organising meetings and filing petitions.
2. Try to influence the media to pay attention to their issues.
3. Organise protests through strikes, disrupting government programmes, setup associations and organisations of people.
4. Business groups employ people and sponsor expensive advertisements.
5. Participate in official bodies and committees that give advice to the government.

### 4. Compare the situation of Belgium and Sri Lanka considering location, size and cultural aspects.

Answer:

Belgium	Sri Lanka
(i) Belgium is a European country which shares its boundaries with Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany.	(i) Sri Lanka on the other hand, is an island nation, a south asian country, situated south to India.
(ii) It is a very small country in Europe, even smaller in area than that of the state of Haryana.	(ii) It has about 2 crore people, about same as Haryana. As compared to Belgium, it is much bigger in area.
(iii) The ethnic composition of Belgium is very complex. The total population, 59% are living in Flemish region and speak Dutch language. Another 40% people live in the Wallonia region and speak French and the remaining one percent of the Belgians speak German.	(iii) Sri Lanka has a diverse population. Social composition of population of Sri Lanka is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sinhala speaking – 74%</li><li>• Tamil speaking – 18%</li><li>• Christians – 7%</li></ul>

**5. Bring out any two sharp contrast between Belgium and Sri Lankan democracies.**

**Answer:** Sri Lanka and Belgium are both democratic countries yet have a very diverse social set-up. Both the countries have adopted very different approaches when it comes to power sharing.

- (a) Belgium produced an ideal example of democratic system. It adopted the policy of accommodation of social and ethnic divisions. On the other hand, Sri Lanka also adopted democratic system but followed majoritarian policies.
- (b) Under the Belgium model of democracy, power was shared among two ethnic groups. Sri Lanka favoured the interests of the majority Sinhala community.
- (c) In Belgium, both the groups had equal share in working of government but in Sri Lanka the minority community was isolated.
- (d) To maintain political stability and unity, equal representation was provided to both the groups. Apart from that, community government of both the ethnic groups also existed at the local level. Sri Lanka, however, had no such arrangement.
- (e) Belgium constitution was amended four times before arriving at a final draft to prevent civil strife. In Sri Lanka, majoritarianism led to civil war for twenty long years.

**6. Sharing of powers makes a country more powerful and united. Do you agree with the statement? Why?**

**Answer:** Yes, I agree with the statement. Power sharing makes a country more united.

- (a) Power sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- (b) It is a good way to ensure the stability of political order as social conflict often leads to violence and political instability.
- (c) Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. The concept of democracy is a system of government of the people, by the people and for the people, which emphasizes on distribution of power among people.
- (d) It involves sharing powers with those affected by its exercise and who have to live with its effects, so that the people would be consulted on how they are to be governed.

**7. Why is power sharing desirable?**

**Answer:** Power sharing is desirable to resolve disputes over exercising of power, to unite the diverged city by making them participate in the decision making process and to ensure the stability of political organ.

**Exercises**

**1. What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.**

**Answer:** What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies are:

**(a) Power sharing among different organs of government:**

Power is divided horizontally among the three branches of the government to keep a check on each other. The three branches of government are: legislature, executive and judiciary.

**Example:** The Parliament of India is the legislative body which keeps a check on the working of Executive and Judiciary.

**(b) Power sharing among governments at different levels:**

Power is also shared at the different level of government vertically as Central Union/Federal Government, State Governments and Regional/Provincial/Local Governments.

**Example:** Maharashtra government is free to make laws on the matter of law and order because it does not come under the purview of central government.

**(c) Power sharing among different social groups:**

Power is also shared among the different social groups. India is one of the most diverse country in the world, and it has various religious and linguistic groups which shares power among themselves.

**Example:** States in India is formed on the linguistic bases after independence.

**(d) Power sharing among political parties, pressure groups and movements:**

In a democracy, power is also shared among the various political parties, pressure groups and movements. Democracy ensures that power should not accumulate in some hands so elections are held regularly to elect our representatives and every citizen of India has equal political rights to form a party and to contest elections.

**Example:** We have a multi-party system in which we can elect anybody to rule upon us and various parties of different ideologies can come together to form the government which is known as the coalition government.

**2. State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power sharing with an example from the Indian context.**

**Answer:**

- (a) Prudential Reason:** Prudential reasons are based on careful calculation of gains and losses. The prudential reason for power sharing is a precautionary measure. This reason for power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

**Example:** Reserved Constituencies for minorities and women in Assemblies and Parliament.

- (b) Moral Reason:** Moral reasons are based purely on moral considerations. The moral reason of power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. Here, people have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.

**Example:** Decentralisation of powers in India.