

Power-Sharing

Q1) Discuss Accommodation in Belgium.

Ans

- i) Between 1970 and 1993 they amended their constitution 4 times so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.
- ii) Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
- iii) Many powers of the Central Government have been given to State Governments of the two regions of the country. The State Governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.
- iv) Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation. The French speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the Central Government.
- v) Apart from the Central and the State Government, there is a third kind of government elected by people belonging to one language community - Dutch, French and German-speaking - no matter where they live. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.

Q2) Why is power sharing desirable?

Ans: Independent Reasons :-

- i) Firstly, power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- ii) Social conflict often leads to violence and political instability; power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political laws and order.

iii) Expressing the will of majority community over others may look like an attractive option in the short run but in the long run it undermines unity of the nation.

iv) Prudential reasons stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes.

Moral Reasons:-

- i) Power sharing is very spirit of democracy.
- ii) A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise and who have to live with its effects.
- iii) People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.
- iv) A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.
- v) Moral reasons emphasize the very act of power sharing as valuable.

Q3) How is modern democracy's power sharing arrangements can take various forms?

Ans:

- i) Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. This is called **Horizontal power sharing or horizontal distribution of power**.

- ii) It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers.
- iii) Such a ~~separation~~ separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the others. This results in a balance of power among various institutions in a country.
- iv) This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances.

Vertical :-

- i) Power can be shared among governments at different levels.
- ii) Higher level of government has more powers than lower.
- iii) Central government is more powerful than state and state is more powerful than local.

Among different social groups :-

- i) Power may also be shared among different social groups.
- ii) In some countries, there are constitutional and legal arrangements, whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in legislatures and administration.
- iii) The system of 'reserved constituencies' in assemblies and the parliament of our country. This type of arrangement is meant to give space in the government and administration to diverse social groups.

i)

Among Political parties :-

- i) Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power.

- ii) Power doesn't remain in one hand. In the long run, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.
- iii) Sometimes this kind of sharing can be direct, when two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections. If their alliance is elected, they form a coalition government and thus share power.

Federalism

(Q1) Differentiate between unitary and federal government.

Ans.

Unitary

Federal

- | | |
|---|---|
| i) It has one level of government. | i) It has 2 or more levels. |
| ii) National government is more powerful. | ii) Powers of both levels are same. |
| iii) Central government can pass order to state government. | iii) Central government can't pass order to state government. |
| iv) State government is answerable to central gov. | iv) State gov. is not answerable to central government. |
| v) State government is subordinate to central. | v) State government is independent of central government. |
| vi) States are not independent for working. | vi) States are independent for working. |

(Q2) Discuss key features of federalism.

Ans.

- There are two or more levels of government.
- Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
- The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in constitution. So the existence and authority of each tier of government is constitutionally guaranteed.
- The fundamental provisions of the constitution can't be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Such changes require consent of both levels of government.

- v) Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of government. The highest court acts as an umpire if dispute arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their powers.
- vi) Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
- vii) The federal system thus has dual objectives: to safeguard and promote unity of the country, while at some time accommodate regional diversity. Therefore, two aspects are crucial for the institution and practice of federalism. Governments at different levels should agree to some rules of power sharing. They should also trust that each would abide by its part of the agreement. An ideal federal ~~government~~ system has both aspects: mutual trust and agreement to live together.

Q3) There are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed. Discuss.

- Ans
- i) The first route involves independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity, they can increase their security.
 - ii) This type of federation is called Coming Together Federation. Examples are USA, Australia, Switzerland.
 - iii) In first category of federations, all the constituent states usually have equal power and are strong vis-a-vis the federal government.
 - iv) The second route is where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the national government.

- v) This type is called holding together federation. India, Spain and Belgium are such examples.
- vi) In this, the central government tends to be more powerful vis-a-vis states.
- vii) Very often different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers. Some units are granted special powers.

Q.4) There is 3 fold distribution of power in legislature. Explain.

Ans Union list:

- i) It includes subjects of national importance such as defence, foreign affairs, banking, communication and currency.
- ii) These are included in this list because we need uniform policy on these matters throughout the country.
- iii) The Union Govt. alone can make laws relating to subjects mentioned in Union list.

State list:

- i) State list contains subjects of state and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation.
- ii) The State Government alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the State list.

Concurrent list:

- i) It includes subjects of common interest to Union govt. and state govt. such as education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession.
- ii) Both governments can make laws on the subjects mentioned in Concurrent list.
- iii) If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by Union Government will prevail.

Q 5) What is the basic idea behind decentralisation?

- Ans i) The basic idea behind it is that there are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level.
- ii) People have better knowledge of problems in their localities.
- iii) They also have better ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently.
- iv) At the local level it is possible for people to directly participate in decision making.
- v) This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation.
- vi) Local government is the ~~best~~ way to realise one important principle of democracy, namely local self-government.

Q 6) State differences between the local government before and after the Constitutional amendment in 1993.

Ans

Before:-

- i) Panchayats in villages and municipalities in urban areas were set up in all the states. But were directly under the control of State governments.
- ii) Elections to these weren't held regularly.
- iii) They didn't had any powers or resources of their own.
- iv) Thus, there was very little decentralization in effective terms.

After:-

- i) Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local governmental bodies.
- ii) Seats are reserved in the ~~state~~ elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for SC's, ST's & OBC's.

- iii) At least one-third of all the positions are for women.
- iv) An independent institution called State Election Commission has been created in each state to conduct panchayat and municipal elections.
- v) The state governments are required to share some powers and revenues with local governments. The nature of sharing varies from state-to-state.

Short
Notes

Resources & Development

(Q1) Human beings used resources indiscriminately and this has lead to many major problems. Discuss. / How?

Ans Following are major problems :-

- Depletion of resources for satisfying the greed of a few individuals.
- Accumulation of resources in few hands, which in turn divided the society into two segments i.e. haves and have nots or rich and poor.
- Indiscriminate exploitation of resources has led to global ecological crises such as, global warming, ozone layer depletion, environmental pollution and land degradation.

(Q2) What is Resource Planning? Why we need it?

Ans i) Planning is the widely accepted strategy for judicious use of resources.

- It has importance in a country like India, which has very large diversity in the availability of resources.
- There are regions which are rich in certain types of resources but are deficient in some other resources.
- There are some regions which can be considered self-sufficient in terms of the availability of resources and there are some regions which have acute shortage of vital resources.
- For example in the states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are rich in minerals and coal deposits.

- vi) Meghalaya has abundance of water resources but lacks in infrastructural development.
- vii) The state of Rajasthan is very well endowed with solar and wind energy but lacks water resources.
- viii) Cold desert of Ladakh is relatively isolated from the rest of the country. It has very rich cultural heritage but is deficient in water, infrastructure and some vital minerals.
- ix) This calls for balanced resource planning at national, state, regional and local levels.

(Q3) Discuss resource planning in India or how it is complex process?

Ans It is a complex process which involves :-

- i) identification and inventory of resources across the regions of the country. This involves surveying, mapping and qualitative and quantitative estimation and measurement of the resources.
- ii) Evolving a planning structure endowed with appropriate technology, skill and institutions for implementing resource development plans.
- iii) Matching the resource development plans with overall national development plans.

(Q4) Discuss reasons for land degradation and conservation methods.

Ans Reasons :-

- i) Some human activities such as deforestation, over grazing, mining and quarrying have contributed significantly in land degradation.
- ii) In states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha deforestation due to mining have caused severe land degradation.
- iii) In states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra overgrazing is one of the main reasons for land degradation.

- iv) In the states of Punjab, Haryana & western UP, over irrigation is responsible for land degradation due to waterlogging leading to increased salinity and alkalinity in the soil.
- v) The mineral processing like grinding of limestone for cement industry generate a huge quantity of dust in the atmosphere. Some is for calcite and soapstone for ceramic industry.
- vi) It retards the process of infiltration of water in the soil after it settles down on land.

Conservation Methods:-

- i) There are many methods to solve land degradation problems.
- ii) Afforestation and proper management of grazing can help to some extent.
- iii) Planting of shelter belts and stabilisation of sand dunes by growing thorny bushes are some of the methods to check land degradation in arid areas.
- iv) Proper management of wasteland, control over mining activities, proper discharge and disposal of industrial effluents and waste, after treatment can reduce land and water degradation in industrial and suburban areas.

Q5.) What are causes for soil erosion and suggest methods for soil conservation?

- Ans
- i) The denudation of the soil cover and subsequent washing down is described as soil erosion.
 - ii) Human activities like deforestation, over grazing, construction and mining etc. etc., while natural forces like wind, glacier and water lead to soil erosion.
 - iii) The running water cuts through the clayey soils and makes deep channels called gullies.

- iv) The land becomes unfit for cultivation and is called as Bad land.
- v) In the Chambal basin such lands are called ravines.
- vi) Sometimes water flows as a sheet over large areas down a slope. In such cases the top soil is washed away. This is called sheet erosion.
- vii) Wind blows loose soft soil off flat or sloping land. This is called wind erosion.
- viii) Soil erosion is also caused due to defective methods of farming.
- ix) Ploughing in a wrong way i.e. up and down the slope forms channels for quick flow of water leading to soil erosion.

Conservation methods:-

- i) Ploughing along the contour lines can decelerate the flow of water down the slope. This is called contour ploughing.
- ii) Steps can be cut out from slopes making terrace. It restricts erosion. Western and central himalayas have developed terrace farming.
- iii) Large fields can be divided into strips. Strips of grass are left to grow b/w the crops. This breaks up force of wind. This is called strip cropping.
- iv) Planting rows of trees to create shelter works in a similar way. It is called as shelter belts.
- v) Shelter belts contribute significantly to stabilising of sand dunes and deserts in western India.

Dawn
3/4/25

Forest and Wildlife Resources

(Q1) What steps are taken by government for conservation of Forest and wildlife in India?

- Ans
- i) In the 1960's and 1970's conservationists demanded a national wildlife protection programme.
 - ii) The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act was implemented in 1972, with various provisions for protecting habitats.
 - iii) An all-India list of protected species was also published.
 - iv) Protection the remaining population of certain endangered species by banning hunting, giving legal protection to their habitats and restricting trade in wildlife.
 - v) Central and many state governments established national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
 - vi) The central government also announced several projects for protecting specific animals like the tiger, kashmiri stag, Asiatic lion, Gharial.

(Q2) Discuss role of community in conservation of nature.

- Ans
- ① In some areas of India, local communities are struggling to conserve these habitats along with government, recognising that only this will save their long term livelihood.

② Daniska Tiger Reserve :-

- i) In Daniska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan villagers have fought against mining by citing the Wildlife Protection Act

③

i) Alwar District :-

i) The inhabitants of five villages in the Alwar district of Rajasthan have declared 1300 hectares of forest as 'Bhairadev Dakav Sonchuri' declaring their own set of rules and regulations which don't allow hunting, and are protecting the wildlife against any outside encroachment.

ii) Chipko Movement :-

i) The famous Chipko movement in the himalayas has not only successfully resisted deforestation in several areas but has also shown that community afforestation with indigenous species can be enormously successful.

iii) Beej Bachao Andolan :-

i) Farmers and citizen's groups like Navdanya have shown that adequate levels of diversified crop production without the use of synthetic seeds is possible.

iv) Joint Forest Management :-

i) In India JFM ~~can~~ furnishes a example for involving local communities in management and restoration of degraded forests.
ii) It was started in 1988 and Odisha was 1st state in this.
iii) JFM depends on formation of local institutions that undertake protection activities on land managed by forest department.
iv) In return these communities can enjoy non-timber forest products and share in timber harvested by successful protection.

Suresh

Water Resources

Q1) What are dams and how do they help us in conserving and managing water? Also, what are their demerits?

- Merits**
- i) A dam is a barrier across flowing water that obstructs, directs or retards the flow, often creating a reservoir.
 - ii) Dams were traditionally built to impound rivers and store water that could be used later to irrigate fields.
 - iii) Today, dams are built not just for irrigation but for electricity generation, water supply for domestic and industrial uses, flood control, recreation, inland navigation and fish breeding.
 - iv) Hence, dams are now referred to as multi-purpose projects.
 - v) Dams also fragment rivers making it difficult for aquatic fauna to migrate.
 - vi) Multi-purpose projects and large dams have also been the cause of many new environmental movements like the 'Narmada Bachao Andolan' and 'Tehri Dam Andolan'.
 - vii) Resistance to these projects has primarily been due to the large-scale displacement of local communities. Local people often had to give up their land, livelihood and their meagre access and control over the resources for the greater good of the nation.
 - viii) Irrigation has also changed the cropping pattern of many regions with farmers shifting to water intensive and commercial crops. This has great ecological consequences like salinization of soil.

- i) In Gujarat the Sabarmati - basin farmers were agitated and almost caused a riot over the higher priority given to water supply in urban areas particularly during drought.
- x) Inter-state water disputes are also becoming common with regard to sharing the costs and benefits of the multi-purpose project.
- ii) The dams that were constructed to control floods have triggered floods due to sedimentation in reservoirs.
 - iii) The big dams have mostly been unsuccessful in controlling floods at the time of excess rainfall.
 - iv) The floods have also caused soil erosion.
 - v) Sedimentation also meant that the flood plains were deprived of ~~silt~~ silt, further adding problem of land degradation.
 - vi) It was also observed that the dams induced earthquakes, caused water borne diseases and pests and pollution resulting from excessive use of water.

Q17

Agriculture

Q1) Explain different cropping seasons/patterns in India.

Ans India has 3 cropping patterns - rabi, kharif and zaid

Rabi Crops:-

- i) Rabi crops are sown in winter from October to December and harvested in summer from April to June.
- ii) Some of the important rabi crops are wheat, barley, pea, gram and mustard.
- iii) These crops are grown in large parts of India. States from the north and north western parts such as Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh are important for production of wheat and ~~other~~ other rabi crops.

Kharif Crops:-

- i) Kharif crops are grown with the onset of monsoon in different parts of the country and these are harvested in September - October.
- ii) Important crops grown during this season are paddy, maize, jowar, bajra, tur (arhar), moong, lentil, cotton, jute, groundnut and soyabean.
- iii) Some of the most important rice growing regions are Assam, West Bengal, coastal regions of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra, particularly Konkan coast along with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Zaid Crops :-

- i) In between the rabi and kharif seasons, there is a short season during the summer months are called Zaid season.
- ii) Some of the crops produced during zaid are watermelon, muskmelon, cucumbers, vegetables and fodder crops. Sugarcane takes almost a year to grow.

Q 2) Discuss Technological, Institutional and other types of reforms for interest of farmers by GOI.

Ans Agriculture which provides livelihood for more than 60% of its population needs some serious and institutional reforms.

Institutional Reforms :-

- i) Collectivisation, consolidation of holdings, cooperation and abolition of zamindari etc were given priority to bring about institutional reforms in country after Independence.
- ii) Land reforms was the main focus of first five year plan.
- iii) The right of inheritance had already lead to fragmentation of land holdings necessitating consolidation of holdings.

Technical Reforms :-

- i) The Green Revolution based on the use of package technology and the White Revolution (Operation Flood) were some of the strategies initiated to improve the Indian agriculture.
- ii) In 1980s and 1990s a comprehensive land development programme was initiated, which included both institutional and technical reforms.

Other Reforms :-

- i) Provision for crop insurance against drought, flood, cyclone, fire and disease.
- ii) Establishment of Gramen Banks for providing loan facilities

to the farmers at lower rate of interest. were some important steps in this direction.

- ii) Risan Credit Card (BCC), Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (PAIS) are some other schemes introduced by GOI.
- iv) Special weather bulletins and agricultural programmes for farmers were introduced on the radio and television.
- v) The government also announces MSP & remunerative and procurement prices for important crops to check the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen.