

LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Question 1.

The term used for event in which large number of losses occur to life and property:

- (a) Toxic
- (b) Poisonous
- (c) Disaster
- (d) Vulnerable

Answer: (c) Disaster

Question 2.

Which word is used for pollution?

- (a) Contamination
- (b) Toxic
- (c) Pure
- (d) None of these

Answer: (a) Contamination

Question 3.

What is the term used for a ten-year old child working in a factory?

- (a) Child labour
- (b) Factory worker

- (c) Baildaar
- (d) All of these

Answer: (a) Child labour

Question 4.

The law against child labour was implemented in

- (a) 2001
- (b) 2003
- (c) 2005
- (d) 2006

Answer: (d) 2006

Question 5.

What is a minimum labour (Rupees) for a construction worker in your state?

- (a) Above 75 rupees daily
- (b) Above 100 rupees daily
- (c) Above 150 rupees daily
- (d) Above 300 rupees daily

Answer: (c) Above 150 rupees daily

Question 6.

Which of the following is powerlooms?

- (a) Where the production is made by hand.
- (b) Where the production is made by machines using electricity.
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of these

Answer: (b) Where the production is made by machines using electricity.

Question 7.

How do the private companies earn more profit?

- (a) Giving high wages
- (b) Less working hours
- (c) Both of these
- (d) None of these

Answer: (d) None of these

Question 8.

The money spent to purchase new machine or building for gaining profits in future is called

- (a) investment
- (b) expenditure
- (c) losses
- (d) none of these

Answer: (a) investment

Question 9.

Which type of pollution is created by vehicle's smoke?

- (a) Air pollution
- (b) Water pollution
- (c) Noise pollution
- (d) All of these

Answer: (a) Air pollution

Question 10.

How can we reduce environment pollution?

- (a) By using diesel cars
- (b) By using CNG kits in vehicle
- (c) By using petrol cars
- (d) None of these

Answer: (b) By using CNG kits in vehicle

Question 11.

Which of the following are hazardous industries?

- (a) Pesticides
- (b) Asbestos producing
- (c) Ship breaking
- (d) All of these

Answer: (d) All of these

Match the following:

Column A	Column B
(a) Producer	(i) Manufacturer
(b) Pollution	(ii) Vehicles, power stations
(c) Farmer	(iii) Not pure
(d) Air pollution	(iv) Farm worker
(e) Water pollution	(v) Dirty water

Answer:

Column A	Column B
(a) Producer	(i) Manufacturer
(b) Pollution	(iii) Not pure
(c) Farmer	(iv) Farm worker
(d) Air pollution	(ii) Vehicles, power stations
(e) Water pollution	(v) Dirty water

State whether true or false:

1. Union Carbide, an American Company, produced soaps.

Answer: False

2. To make profit private companies give high wages to their workers.

Answer: False

3. Workers' union is an association of workers.

Answer: True

4. There are laws to protect interest of consumers and producers.

Answer: True

5. Workers' union is common in the factories and offices.

Answer: True

6. Many countries have banned the use of dangerous pesticides like D.D.T.

Answer: True

Fill in the blanks:

1. Consumer is a person who goods for personal use.

Answer: buys

2. means not pure.

Answer: Pollution

3. We need new laws to ensure of the people.

Answer: the safety

4. Clean is necessary for all.

Answer: environment

5. Bhopal gas tragedy was disaster, (man-made/natural)

Answer: man-made

Very Short Answers Type

Question 1.

When did the methyl-isocyanite (MIC) start to leak from the U.C. plant.

Answer:

At midnight on 2nd December 1984 methyl isocyanite (MIC) a highly poisonous gas started leaking from the U.C. plant.

Question 2.

How many people were dead within 3 days during Bhopal gas tragedy?

Answer:

Within three days, more than 8000 people were dead.

Question 3.

What is the full form of CNG?

Answer:

CNG – Compressed Natural Gas.

Question 4.

What is the duty of the government with regards to Article 21?

Answer:

Duty of government is to ensure that the Right to Life guaranteed under Art 21 of the Constitution is not violated.

Question 5.

Where is West Virginia located?

Answer:

West Virginia is located in the U.S.A.

Question 6.

What was there for 12 million children in the 2001 census?

Answer:

According to the 2001 census, over 12 million children in India aged between 5 and 14 work in various occupations including hazardous ones.

Question 7.

What does the Right against Exploitation say?

Answer:

The Right against Exploitation says that no one can be forced to work for low wages or under bondage.

Question 8.

When does the Enforcement become even more important?

Answer:

Enforcement becomes even more important when the law seeks to protect the weak from the strong.

Question 9.

What role does the government have for the betterment of society?

Answer:

The government has the role of making 'appropriate laws' and also has to enforce the laws.

Question 10.

What type of laws can cause serious harm?

Answer:

Laws weak in nature and poorly enforced can cause serious harm.

Question 11.

What issues does the Bhopal tragedy brought to the forefront?

Answer:

Bhopal tragedy causing disaster has brought the environment issues to the forefront.

Question 12.

What does the government is supposed to ensure being law maker and enforcer?

Answer:

Being lawmaker and enforcer, the government is supposed to ensure that safety laws are implemented.

Short Answers Type

Question 1.

With any example state that how markets everywhere tend to be exploitative of people? Answer:

Many of the people directly or indirectly involved in the production of the shirt – the small farmer producing cotton, the weavers of erode or the workers in the garment-exporting factory – faced exploitation or an unfair situation in the market. Markets everywhere tend to be exploitative of people – whether as worker, consumers or producers.

Question 2.

What does the law of minimum wages says?

Answer:

To ensure that workers are not underpaid, or paid fairly, there is a law on minimum wages, a worker is paid less than the minimum wage by the employer. The minimum wages are revised upwards every few years and law on minimum wages is meant to protect workers. *

Question 3.

How does the laws protect the interests of producers and consumers in the market?

Answer:

There are laws that protect the interest of producers and consumers in the market. The help ensure that the relations between these three parties – the workers, consumer and producers are governed in matter so that exploitation of any party could be avoided.

Question 4.

Who was Aziza sultan. What statement made by her?

Answer:

Aziza sultan was the survivor of the Bhopal gas tragedy. According to her the statements was: “At 12.30 am I woke to the sound of my baby coughing badly. In the half-light I saw that the room was tied with a white cloud. I here people shouting ‘run, run’. Then I started coughing, with each breath seeming as it I was breathing in fire. My eyes were burning”.

Question 5.

Who were the most exposed to poison gas of Bhopal gas tragedy?

Answer:

Most of those exposed to the poison gas came from poor, working-class, families, of which nearly 50,000 people are today too sick to work.

Long Answers Type

Question 1.

How did the Indian government introduce new laws on the environment after the Bhopal disaster?

Answer:

The Bhopal disaster brought the issue of environment to the forefront thousands of persons who were not associated with the factory in any way were greatly affected because of the poisonous gases leaked from the plant. This made people realise that the existing laws, though weak, only covered the individual worker and not persons who might be injured due to industrial accidents.

In response to this pressure from environmental activists and others in the years following the Bhopal gas tragedy, the Indian government introduced new laws on the environment. Henceforth, the polluter was to be held accountable for the damage done to environment.

The environment is something that people over generations will share, and it could not be destroyed merely for industrial development. The courts also gave a number of judgment upholding the right to a healthy environment as intrinsic to the Fundamental Right to Life.

XTTRRRRAAAA AMMUNITION

Question 1

How do government certifications like the ISI certification help the consumer?

Solution:

When a product has the ISI mark the consumer can be certain that the product is of good quality and it is safe. Hall mark certification assures the consumer of the purity of gold they buy.

ISO certification assures the consumer that a company has a good Quality Management System.

Consumers might be put to risk by the poor quality of products such as electrical appliances, food, medicines if the government had not set up the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Question 2

How can the government ensure social justice?

Solution:

Through making, enforcing and upholding certain laws, the government can control the activities of individuals or private companies so as to ensure social justice.

Question 3

Write a brief note on the Bhopal gas tragedy.

Solution:

Union Carbide was an American Company which had a factory in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India, which produced pesticides. At midnight on 2nd December, 1984, methyl-isocyanides – a highly poisonous gas – started leaking from the factory plant.

Within three days, more than 8,000 people were dead. Hundreds of thousands were maimed. Most of those exposed to the poison gas came from poor, working-class families.

There are nearly 50,000 people today who are too sick to work. Among those who survived, many developed severe respiratory disorders, eye problems and other disorders. Children developed peculiar abnormalities.

The Bhopal disaster is frequently cited as the world's worst industrial disaster.

Question 4

What were the reasons for the Bhopal tragedy?

Solution:

The Union Carbide tank's alarms had not worked for 4 years. The steam boiler, intended to clean the pipes, was out of action and water sprays designed to "knock down" gas leaks were poorly designed. No action plans had been established to cope with incidents of this magnitude. The local authorities were not informed of the quantities or dangers of chemicals used and manufactured at the factory. These were the reasons for the Bhopal tragedy.

Question 5

What are the reasons for the sharp differences in safety standards between the 2 Union carbide factories in the USA and India?

Solution:

India has a high rate of unemployment and due to this workers are willing to work in unsafe conditions. One worker can easily replace

another due to over population. Ignorance and the vulnerability of Indian workers is also another reason why the safety standards in the Indian factory were very much lower than the factory in USA.

Question 6

In what way was the Government responsible for the Bhopal tragedy?

Solution:

Safety laws were lax in India and these weak safety laws were not enforced.

Government officials refused to recognise the plant as hazardous and allowed it to come up in a populated locality. Though there was some objection regarding the safety violation, the government allowed the factory to start production as it was providing jobs for the local people. The government did not take the initiative to ask the Union Carbide Company to shift to cleaner technology or safer procedures. Government inspectors continued to approve the procedures in the plant, even when there were repeated incidents of poisonous gas leaks. So the government has to bear certain responsibility for the tragedy.

Question 1.

Why do we need a law on minimum wages?

Answer:

We need a law on minimum wages so that private companies cannot deny workers their wages. It is also necessary to ensure that workers are not underpaid, or are paid fairly.

Question 2.

Find out :

(a) What is the minimum wage for a construction worker in your state?

Answer:

The minimum wage for a construction worker is Rs. 150/- per day.

(b) Do you think the minimum wage for a construction worker is adequate, low, or high?

Answer:

The minimum wage for a construction worker is adequate if he gets the work regularly

(c) Who sets the minimum wages?

Answer:

The contractor in case of a construction worker.

Page No. 122

Question 1.

Table 1 provides some important laws relating to the protection of these various interests. Columns (2) and (3) in Table 1 state why and for whom these laws are necessary. Based on discussions in the classroom, you have to complete the remaining entries in the table.

Answer:

Law	Why is it necessary?	Whose interests does the law protect?
Minimum Wages Act specifies that wages should not be below a specified minimum.	Many workers are denied fair wages by their employers. Because they badly need work, workers have no bargaining	This law is meant to protect the interests of all workers; particularly, farm labourers, construction workers, factory

	power and are paid low wages.	workers, domestic workers, etc.
Law specifying that there be adequate safety measures in workplaces. For example, alarm system, emergency exits, properly-functioning machinery.	For the safety of workers during emergencies like a fire, gas leakage, etc.	The interest of factory workers who will other-wise have to lose their lives.

<p>The law requiring that the quality of goods meet certain prescribed standards. For example, electrical appliances have to meet safety standards</p>	<p>Consumers might be put to risk by the poor quality of products such as electrical appliances, food, medicines.</p>	<p>This law is meant to protect the people from accidents like electric shock, food poisoning, etc.</p>
<p>The law requiring that the prices of essential goods are not high – For example, sugar, kerosene, food-grains.</p>	<p>Essential goods need to be provided to everyone. To keep a check on the wholesalers and retailers providing</p>	<p>The interests of the poor who will otherwise be unable to afford these goods.</p>

	essential goods in the market.	
The law requiring that factories do not pollute air or water.	<p>To prevent unfair practices of factories.</p> <p>To protect our environment from getting deteriorated.</p>	The interests of people who will otherwise suffer from various diseases.
Laws against child labour in workplaces	Our Constitution says that no child below the age of 14 shall be employed to work in any factory or mines or any other hazardous employment.	This law is meant to protect the children from exploitation and providing the opportunity to go to school.

Law to form workers unions/ associations.	By organizing themselves into unions, workers can use their combined power to demand fair wages and better working conditions.	To protect the interest of all workers, particularly, factory workers, domestic workers, etc.
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Page No. 127

Question 1.

Why do you think enforcement of safety laws is important in any factory?

Answer:

Enforcement of safety laws is important in any factory because of the following reasons :

(1) It is the duty of the government to ensure that the right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution is not violated.

(2) More industries are being set up by local and foreign people or institutions in India. They hardly care to include safety measures to save costs and earn higher profits.

Workers are forced to work in unsafe conditions. If any accident occurs, it swallows thousands of lives for which their families are never compensated.

Question 2.

Can you point to a few other situations where laws (for rules) exist but people do not follow them because of poor enforcement? (For example, over-speeding by motorists not wearing helmet/seat belt and use of mobile phone while driving). What are the problems in enforcement? Can you suggest some ways in which enforcement can be improved?

Answer:

Few situations where laws exist but people do not follow them are :

1. Not crossing the road from a zebra crossing.
2. Encroachment of land in commercial and residential areas.
3. Crossing red lights on the road.

Problems in enforcement :

1. People are not aware of such laws or deliberately ignore them.
2. Lack of responsibility in the government officials who look after particular departments.
3. Culprits often offer bribes to government officials to get rid of the case.
4. People often misuse their political approach.

Some ways in which enforcement can be improved :

1. Awareness among the masses regarding laws with the help of media.
2. Government officials need to become sincere in performing their duties.
3. In spite of taking bribes, the government official should punish or fine the culprit without caring whether the culprit has a relation with a minister or is a common person.
4. Interference of government must be banned during the enforcement of the law.

Page No. 128

Question 1.

A 'clean environment is a public' facility. Can you explain this statement?

Answer:

Public facilities are some of the essential facilities that need to be provided for everyone. It includes healthcare and sanitation.

1. When everyone especially the poor in the rural and urban areas will have access to sanitation (toilet facilities within the premises of residence) the environment will become clean.
 2. Apart from sanitation, healthcare is also important for a clean environment.
 3. People can also contribute to keeping the environment clean by rational use of private vehicles.
 4. Factory wastes should not be dumped into the lakes of rivers.
- By summing up all these factors together the environment can be kept clean and people can lead a healthy life.

Question 2.

Why do we need new laws (on environmental aspects)?

Answer:

We need new laws to check pollution, clean rivers. The government should introduce heavy fines for those who pollute the environment. Polluter needs to be held accountable for the damage done to the environment.

Question 3.

Why are companies and contractors able to violate environmental laws?

Answer:

Companies and contractors are able to violate environmental laws because :

1. Laws made on the environment are not properly enforced by the government.
2. Government officials take bribes from the companies and contractors and allow them to do the work they want.
3. Companies and contractors are not dealt with strictly if they are caught violating environmental law.
4. They should be strictly punished or penalized. So it should be a lesson for others who tries to break such laws.

Page No. 129

Question 1.

Do you think everyone got justice in the case cited above (see box given in the Textbook, Page 129)?

Answer:

No, everyone did not get justice in the case cited above. It is always the poor who suffer. In the above case, factory workers and slum dwellers were the victims.

Question 2.

Can you think of other ways in which the environment can be protected? Discuss in class.

Answer:

Other ways in which the environment can be protected are as follows:

1. Laws made for environmental protection should be enforced.
2. People breaking environmental law must be punished.
3. Machinery used in industries must be checked regularly.
4. Factories which contribute significantly towards environmental conservation by adopting various measures should be awarded by the government mid-brought into the limelight.
5. It would probably encourage other industrialists to adopt environmental conservation measures.

6. Awareness must be developed among the masses towards environmental conservation.
7. Government officials must keep a strict eye on the people who try to damage the environment.

Question 1.

Talk to two workers (for example, construction workers, farm workers, factory workers, workers at any shop) to find out if they are receiving the minimum wages laid down by law.

Answer:

- **Construction workers:** They do not receive the minimum wages.
- **Farm workers:** They do not receive the minimum wages.
- **Factory workers:** They receive minimum wages.
- **Workers at the shop:** They get minimum wages.

Question 2.

What are the advantages to foreign companies in setting-up production in India?

Answer:

Foreign countries have many advantages of setting up their factories in India like:

- Availability of cheap labour. There is a vast difference in the wages that the workers get in the U.S.A. and European countries as compared to what they get in India.
- For lower wages, companies get longer hours of work.
- Their additional expenses for housing insurance are also less.
- They are able to use lower safety measures due to weak laws.
- They do not even spend money on clearing the pollution they create.
- Thus are able to cut and save costs on safety measurement, and earn profits.

Question 3.

Do you think the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy got justice? Discuss.

Answer:

No, As the gas victims are still not rehabilitated:

- They are still suffering from effects of gas leaks.
- Their cases are still pending in numerous courts.

Question 4.

What do we mean when we speak of law enforcement? Who is responsible for enforcement? Why is enforcement so important?

Answer:

Law enforcement means to compel obedience to the law. Laws passed by the government have to be enforced otherwise the benefit of the laws will not reach the citizens. It is the duty of the government to enforce the laws.

By enforcing and upholding these laws, the government can control the activities of individuals or private companies so as to ensure social justice. Enforcement is even more important when the law seeks to protect the weak from the strong.

Question 5.

How can laws ensure that markets work in a manner that is fair? Give two examples to support your answer.

Answer:

The government has passed laws that ensure that essential products such as food grains, sugar, and kerosene are not highly-priced. It is necessary that such restrictions are placed on people who market these products; otherwise the poor will not be able to afford these goods.

The government has also passed the Consumers' Protection Act which ensures that the consumers are not cheated by the sale of sub-standard products.

'Hallmark' certification helps the consumer to buy standard gold ornaments and 'Agmark' certification ensures that the food products on sale are of good quality.

Question 6.

Imagine yourself to be a worker working in a chemical factory, which has received orders from the government to move to a different site 100 kms away from the present location. Write about how your life would change? Read out your responses in the classroom.

Answer:

My life would change drastically.

- There will not be any pollution.
- Wages would increase. .
- Housing facilities may be provided.
- Some problems would come initially regarding transport, housing, etc.
- Employer would pay more attention to the workers.

Question 7.

Write a paragraph on the various roles of the government that you have read about in this unit.

Answer:

Various Roles of the Government:

- Enactment of Minimum Wages Act.
- Law protecting the interests of the producers and consumers in the market.
- Law relating to adequate safety measures at the workplace.
- Quality standards to be fixed.
- Law against hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities.
- Law against sexual harassment of women at workplace.
- Law against child labour at workplace.
- Law to form workers/labour unions.

Question 8.

What are the sources of environmental pollution in your area? Discuss with respect to

- (a) air
- (b) water and
- (c) soil.

What are the steps being taken to reduce pollution? Can you suggest some other measures?

Answer:

Causes of Pollution in our Area:

(a) Air pollution: Vehicles, thermal power station.

(b) Water pollution: Dry latrines, sewer age water, water drawing industries, tanneries.

(c) Soil: Industrial effluents and ash of the thermal power station.

Steps being taken to reduce the pollution:

- Appropriate measures need to be taken by countries/regions of the world to stop misuse or overuse of resources.
- Corrective steps to improve the quality of degraded resources must be taken for treatment of Sewage.
- Banning the use of certain dangerous pesticides like D.D.T.
- Safe disposal of wastes and garbage.

Other Measures:

- Check harmful emissions from automobiles, industries.
- Using Rs. 3
- Limiting use of non-renewable resources.

Question 9.

How was the environment treated earlier? What has been the change in perception? Discuss.

Answer:

- Environment was treated as a “free” entity and all were allowed to degrade or pollute it.
- No attention was paid by the governments as it was believed “nature cleans itself”.
- But, now the perception has changed and countries are introducing new legislations to protect the environment.

Question 10.

What do you think the famous cartoonist R.K. Laxman is trying to convey in this cartoon?

Answer:



1. R.K. Laxman is trying to show that we ourselves are responsible for increasing child labour.
2. We are not sensitive towards the needs and aspirations of other children.
3. It relates to the law of prohibiting children below 14 years to be employed as domestic servants.