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CIE-3

Q.1) Ans:- In India, the Panchayati Raj functions as a system of governance in which gram panchayats are the basic unit of local administration. The system has three levels: gram panchayat (village level), mandal parishad or panchayat samiti (block level) and zilla parishad (district level). It was formalized under the 73rd amendment to the Indian Constitution in 1992. This act added Part - IX to the Constitution of India. The act has given a practical shape to Article 40 of the constitution and gives a constitutional status to PRIs.

The structure of the Panchayati Raj is composed of three units:

(i) Gram Panchayat:- The Gram Panchayat is the lowermost unit. There is a Panchayat for each village or group of villages in case the population of these villages happens to be too small. The Panchayat primarily consists of representatives elected by the people of the village. Every Panchayat elects a President or Sarpanch and a Vice-President or Up Sarpanch.

The Sarpanch supervises and coordinates

the various activities of the Panchayat. The Panchayat Secretary assists the Panchayat in recording decisions, keeping minutes, explaining circulars, organizing meetings, etc. The Village Development ~~Off~~ Officer assists the Panchayat in drawing up agricultural production plans, help farmers secure loans for agriculture, arrange supply of seeds, fertilizers and educate farmers about modern agricultural practices.

(ii) Panchayat Samiti :- The President of the Panchayat Samiti is called the Pradhan, and he guides the Panchayats in making plans and carrying out production programmes. He ensures the implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the Samiti and its standing Committees.

The main function of the Panchayat Samiti is to synchronize the activities of various Panchayats within its jurisdiction. It is charged with the responsibility of preparing and implementing plans for the development of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, small scale and cottage industries, etc.

(iii) Zilla Parishad :- The Zilla Parishad is in the top position of the three-tier Panchayati Raj System. The Chairman of Zilla Parishad is elected from among its members, and the CEO in the Zilla Parishad is deputed by the State Government.

The Zilla Parishad renders necessary advice to the Government with regard to implementation

of the various development schemes. There are subject matter specialists or officers at the district level in all the states for various development programmes. It harmonises the activities of the Panchayat Samitis falling in its jurisdiction.

Conclusion :- Panchayati Raj Institutes play a significant role in the development of villages especially in areas like primary education, health, agriculture, women and child development, etc.

2) Ans:- The Social Welfare Department has taken various schemes for the betterment of women in the state. One of the most significant schemes is :-

Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABLA) :- It is a centrally sponsored program of Government of India initiated on April 1, 2011 under Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The objectives of the program are :-

- Enable the Adolescent girls for self-development and empowerment.
- Improve their nutrition and health status.
- Promote awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition and sexual health (ARSH) and family and childcare.
- Upgrade home-based skills, life skills and integrate with the National Skill Development Program (NSDP) for vocational skills.

- Mainstream out of school adolescent girls into formal/non-formal education.

Under Article 15(3), the Constitution of India allows for positive discrimination in favor of women. The article under right to equality states that: "Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children". In addition, the Directive Principles of State Policy 39(A) states that: "The state shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood."

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, a branch of GoI, is an apex body for formulation and administration of the rules and regulations and laws relating to women and child development in India.

Conclusion:-

The role of welfare bodies of Women are :-

- (i) All round empowerment of women.
- (ii) Establishment of self-reliant women's Self Help Groups.
- (iii) Strengthening and institutionalizing the savings habit in rural women and their ~~control~~ control over economic resources.
- (iv) Encourage widow remarriage in the state with the objective to raise their social status and ensure social security.