

Chapter 5

Rural Administration

2MARKS

1Q: Explain the role of the Gram Sabha in the Panchayati Raj system. (2 marks)

Answer:

The Gram Sabha is a key component of the Panchayati Raj system in India. It is a village assembly consisting of all eligible voters in the area covered by a Panchayat. The Gram Sabha plays a crucial role in decision-making, as it discusses and approves plans presented by the Gram Panchayat. It serves as a forum for villagers to voice their concerns, hold elected representatives accountable, and participate in the local governance process.

Q 2: Describe the importance of land records in rural administration. (2 marks)

Answer:

Land records are essential in rural administration for maintaining a systematic record of land ownership, boundaries, and land use. The Patwari, responsible for land records, helps prevent and resolve land disputes. These records also aid in the collection of land revenue, updating the government on crop patterns, and ensuring transparency in land-related transactions. Proper maintenance of land records contributes to effective rural governance and supports farmers and landowners in legal matters.

Q3:What challenges did Mohan face when reporting the incident at the police station, and how were these challenges addressed? (2 marks)

Answer:Mohan faced reluctance from the Station House Officer (S.H.O.) at the police station when he tried to report the assault. The S.H.O. initially refused to record the complaint and dismissed it as a minor issue. However, after much discussion and intervention from Mohan's neighbors, the S.H.O. agreed to register the case. This highlights the challenge of uncooperative behavior at the police station and the importance of community support in addressing such issues.

Q 4:Explain the concept of the Gram Panchayat and its role in rural governance. (2 marks)

Answer:The Gram Panchayat is the local self-government institution at the village level in the Panchayati Raj system. It consists of elected representatives called Panchs, with the Sarpanch serving as the Panchayat President. The Gram Panchayat is responsible for implementing development programs, managing local resources, and addressing village-level issues. Its decisions are subject to approval by the Gram Sabha, ensuring participatory governance and accountability to the community.

Q5:Discuss the significance of the Patwari in rural administration. (2 marks)

Answer:The Patwari plays a crucial role in rural administration by maintaining land records. This officer, also known by various names in different states, measures agricultural fields, updates land records, and collects land revenue. The Patwari's responsibilities include resolving land disputes, providing accurate information to the government about crops and land use, and ensuring the transparency and accuracy of land-related transactions.

Q6:How does the jurisdiction of a police station impact the reporting of incidents? Provide an example. (2 marks)

Answer:The jurisdiction of a police station defines the geographical area it covers. All incidents within that area must be reported to the respective police station. For instance, if a theft occurs in a house, the complainant should go to the police station within the jurisdiction where the house is located. This ensures that the police station is responsible for investigating and taking action on cases within its designated area.

Q 7:Explain the three levels of Panchayats in the Panchayati Raj system. (2 marks)

Answer:The Panchayati Raj system consists of three levels of Panchayats: Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, and Zila Parishad. The Gram Panchayat is the first level, representing the village and governed by elected representatives. Panchayat Samiti, at the block level, oversees multiple Gram Panchayats. Zila Parishad operates at the district level, coordinating development plans and funds distribution among Panchayat Samitis. This three-tier structure ensures decentralized governance and local participation in decision-making.

4MARKS**What is the work of the police?**

A: Every police station works within a geographical area assigned to it. When there are any cases of theft, accident, injury, fight etc., it is the responsibility of the police to investigate and take action.

2. List two things that the work of a Patwari includes.**Solution 2:**

1. Measuring the land and keeping land records is the main job
2. Each Patwari is responsible for a group of villages.
3. Maintains and updates the records of the villages

3. What is the work of a Tehsildar?**Solution 3:**

1. Collecting land revenue
2. Providing caste certificates to the students
3. Keeping track of the work done by the Patwari
4. Making sure that land records are kept safely.

4. What issue is the poem trying to raise? Do you think this is an important issue? Why?**Solution 4:**

The poem is trying to raise the issue of gender discrimination against women. When women cannot inherit their father's property, it always goes to the sons. It is a very important issue because, in the eyes of the Constitution, all are equal. Hence, they should be given equal rights over their parents' property.

5. In what ways are the work of the Panchayat that you read about in the previous chapter and the work of the Patwari related to each other?

Solution 5:

Panchayat solves the land disputes, and the Patwari maintains land records.

6. Visit a police station and find out the work that the police have to do to prevent crime and maintain law and order in their area, especially during festivals, public meetings etc.

Solution 6:

This is an activity that needs to be done by the students.

7. Who is in charge of all the police stations in a district? Find out.

Solution 7:

The Superintendent of Police is in charge of all the police stations in a district.

8. How do women benefit under the new law?

Solution 8:

According to the new law, women can own the property of their parents. This has brought about a sense of security in their minds, as it can help them financially in times of their needs.

9. In your neighbourhood, are there women who own property? How did they acquire it?

Solution 9:

This is an activity for students.

7MARKS

1Q: Explain the role of the Patwari in rural administration.

Answer: The Patwari, a crucial figure in rural administration, serves as a linchpin in maintaining land records and facilitating effective governance. Also known by various regional names like Lekhpal, Kanungo, or Village Officer, the Patwari holds responsibilities that extend across multiple dimensions. Firstly, the Patwari is tasked with the measurement and documentation of agricultural fields. This involves using various methods, such as long chains or modern tools, to accurately measure and record the dimensions of each field in their jurisdiction.

Secondly, the Patwari plays a pivotal role in keeping and updating land records. These records, often known as Khasra and Khatauni, contain essential information about land ownership, boundaries, and the crops cultivated. Regular updates are crucial to reflect any changes in land ownership or land use. This documentation serves as the foundation for resolving disputes related to land, ensuring transparency, and preventing illegal encroachments.

Another vital function of the Patwari is the collection of land revenue from farmers. They organize the assessment and collection of revenue based on the information gathered from land records. This revenue is a significant source of income for the government and contributes to various development initiatives in rural areas. The Patwari's role is, therefore, not only administrative but also economic in nature.

In times of land disputes, the Patwari emerges as a key mediator. Farmers or landowners often approach the Patwari to settle disagreements over property boundaries or ownership. The Patwari, armed with accurate land records, conducts surveys, verifies claims, and facilitates fair resolutions. This contributes to maintaining harmony in rural communities and prevents prolonged legal battles.

In essence, the Patwari operates at the grassroots level of rural administration. Their functions directly impact the lives of farmers and landowners, ensuring the smooth functioning of land-related activities. Their role in maintaining records, settling disputes, and facilitating revenue collection makes them an indispensable part of the administrative machinery in rural areas.

2Q: Evaluate the challenges faced by farmers in accessing land records and suggest possible improvements to make the process more accessible.

Answer: Despite the critical role that land records play in rural administration, farmers often encounter various challenges when attempting to access this information. The hurdles range from bureaucratic complexities to insufficient awareness and technological barriers. Understanding and addressing these challenges is vital to make the process of accessing land records more accessible for farmers.

One primary challenge is the bureaucratic nature of the process. Farmers may find it cumbersome to navigate through government offices and adhere to formalities to obtain land records. Streamlining the administrative procedures, reducing unnecessary paperwork, and simplifying the application processes can significantly ease the burden on farmers. Implementing user-friendly interfaces and online portals for record access could modernize and expedite the process.

Another challenge lies in the lack of awareness among farmers about their rights and the procedures for accessing land records. Conducting awareness campaigns in rural areas, organizing workshops, and leveraging community networks can empower farmers with the knowledge needed to navigate the system. This educational outreach could also include information on the importance of regularly updating land records.

Technological barriers present a significant obstacle, especially in regions where farmers may not have easy access to digital tools. To overcome this, initiatives can be introduced to digitize land records and make them available at local Panchayat offices. Additionally, providing training to farmers on using digital platforms or appointing local facilitators who can assist in accessing digital records can bridge the technological gap.

Reducing fees associated with obtaining land records is another critical improvement. High fees may act as a deterrent for farmers, particularly those with limited financial resources. Governments could consider subsidizing these costs or implementing a tiered fee structure based on the economic status of the farmers.

In conclusion, addressing the challenges faced by farmers in accessing land records requires a multi-faceted approach. Streamlining bureaucratic processes, increasing awareness, leveraging technology, and implementing fee reforms collectively contribute to making land records more accessible. These improvements not only empower farmers with essential information but also enhance the efficiency and transparency of rural administration.

3Q: Describe the decision-making process of the Hardas Gram Panchayat regarding the water problem. How did they address both immediate and long-term solutions, and what role did the Sarpanch play in this process? (8 marks)

Answer:

The decision-making process of the Hardas Gram Panchayat regarding the water problem was comprehensive and involved considerations for both immediate and long-term solutions. Initially, the Gram Panchayat discussed immediate solutions to alleviate the water scarcity issue. The suggestion to deepen two handpumps and clean one well was put forward. The Sarpanch, who serves as the head of the Gram Panchayat, played a significant role in this discussion. He proposed utilizing the funds allocated for handpump maintenance to implement the immediate solutions. This decision was agreed upon by the members, and the Secretary recorded it, showcasing a collaborative approach in decision-making.

For the long-term solution, the Gram Panchayat engaged in a thorough discussion about the effectiveness of the watershed program. Understanding that the Gram Sabha members might inquire about the long-term plans, the Gram Panchayat decided to seek more information about the watershed scheme by approaching the Block Development Officer. This reflects a strategic and thoughtful approach to address the root cause of the water scarcity issue.

In summary, the decision-making process involved active participation from Gram Panchayat members, with the Sarpanch playing a leadership role. They considered immediate actions to provide quick relief while also contemplating long-term strategies to ensure sustained water availability. The involvement of the Secretary

in recording decisions highlights the importance of documentation in the governance process.

Q 4:Examine the three levels of Panchayats mentioned in the text - Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, and Zila Parishad. What are their respective roles in the Panchayati Raj System, and how do they contribute to local governance? (8 marks)

Answer:The Panchayati Raj System operates through three levels of Panchayats, each with distinct roles contributing to local governance.

Gram Panchayat: At the grassroots level, the Gram Panchayat is the foundation of local governance. Comprising elected representatives called Panchs, it is responsible for implementing development programs in the villages it governs. The Gram Panchayat addresses issues like water supply, infrastructure development, and common property resources.

Panchayat Samiti (Block Level): The Panchayat Samiti operates at the Block level and oversees multiple Gram Panchayats. It plays a crucial role in regulating fund distribution among Gram Panchayats and coordinating development activities. Through committees like construction and development committees, it facilitates collaboration between the Gram Panchayats to address broader regional challenges.

Zila Parishad (District Level): At the highest tier, the Zila Parishad operates at the district level. It plans and makes developmental decisions for a larger area, encompassing multiple Panchayat Samitis. The Zila Parishad also receives and allocates funds, ensuring an integrated approach to development in the district.

The Panchayati Raj System promotes decentralization and empowers local communities to participate in governance. The Gram Panchayat acts as the immediate point of contact for villagers, ensuring their needs are addressed. Panchayat Samiti coordinates efforts at the Block level, fostering cooperation among Gram Panchayats. Finally, the Zila Parishad oversees district-level planning, enabling a comprehensive approach to development. Together, these levels create a structured system for local governance, ensuring that decisions are

made with community participation and considering the unique needs of each administrative level.

Q 5: Discuss the significance of the Gram Sabha in ensuring transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Gram Panchayat. Provide examples from the text to support your explanation. (8 marks)

Answer: The Gram Sabha holds a pivotal role in ensuring transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Gram Panchayat. It acts as a platform for direct participation of villagers in decision-making processes, preventing misuse of power and resources. The significance of the Gram Sabha is evident in the provided text through several instances.

Firstly, the Gram Sabha serves as a check on decisions made by the Gram Panchayat. In the scenario where Om Prakash's name was omitted from the BPL list, the Gram Sabha questioned the exclusion. The Sarpanch noticed people whispering and allowed individuals to express concerns. This proactive engagement of the Gram Sabha prevents arbitrary decisions by the Gram Panchayat, ensuring fairness and inclusivity.

Additionally, the Gram Sabha acts as a watchdog against potential wrongdoing. It plays a role in scrutinizing the actions of elected representatives, as exemplified by Sukhi bai's statement regarding Amirchand's influence. The Gram Sabha's ability to provoke discussion and question the actions of the Gram Panchayat keeps the governance process transparent and accountable to the community.

Furthermore, the Gram Sabha's involvement in approving the Gram Panchayat's plans adds a layer of democratic legitimacy to the decisions. By presenting plans before the Gram Sabha, the Gram Panchayat is held accountable to the villagers who elected them. This participatory approach ensures that the Gram Panchayat remains responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community.

In conclusion, the Gram Sabha's significance lies in its ability to act as a safeguard against potential abuses of power, ensuring that the Gram Panchayat remains transparent and accountable. Through active participation, questioning, and

approval processes, the Gram Sabha contributes to the democratic functioning of local governance.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWERS

Q1: What was the dispute between Mohan and Raghu?

- a) A business disagreement
- b) A boundary dispute over agricultural land
- c) A family matter
- d) A disagreement over water rights

Correct Answer: b) A boundary dispute over agricultural land

Q2: Why did Mohan worry about picking a quarrel with Raghu?

- a) Raghu was his best friend
- b) Raghu was the village head
- c) Raghu's family was wealthy and influential
- d) Raghu was a police officer

Correct Answer: c) Raghu's family was wealthy and influential

Q3: What was the main issue Mohan faced when filing a complaint at the police station?

- a) Excessive paperwork
- b) Police station was too far away
- c) Unavailability of the police officer
- d) S.H.O. initially refused to register the complaint

Correct Answer: d) S.H.O. initially refused to register the complaint

Q4: What is the primary responsibility of the Patwari?

- a) Managing health services
- b) Maintaining land records
- c) Handling legal disputes
- d) Supervising educational institutions

Correct Answer: b) Maintaining land records

Q5: What is the role of the Tehsildar in the revenue department?

- a) Maintaining land records
- b) Overseeing the entire district
- c) Investigating police cases
- d) Administering Panchayats

Correct Answer: b) Overseeing the entire district

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. **Women gained equal property rights** did the Hindu Succession Amendment Act, 2005, impact property rights for women.
2. To overcome this, initiatives can be introduced to digitize land records and make them available at **local Panchayat** offices.
3. The Gram Sabha acts as a crucial mechanism for maintaining transparency and accountability within the **Gram Panchayat**
4. **Maintaining land records** is the primary responsibility of the Patwari
5. The **Panchayati Raj** System promotes decentralization and empowers local communities to participate in governance

summary

Chapter 5, "Rural Administration," delves into the workings of rural administrative officers and the services they provide. The narrative begins with a dispute between two farmers, Mohan and Raghu, over a boundary dispute. Mohan faces resistance when he tries to report the incident to the local police station.

The chapter introduces the role of a Patwari, an officer responsible for maintaining land records. The Patwari's tasks include measuring agricultural fields, updating land records, and collecting land revenue. The Patwari plays a crucial role in resolving disputes related to land ownership.

Land records, known as Khasra records, are crucial for settling disputes like the one between Mohan and Raghu. The Patwari's work is supervised by revenue officers, such as the Tehsildar, who ensures proper record-keeping and land revenue collection.

The narrative also highlights the importance of public services in rural areas. It emphasizes the need for accessible and well-functioning services such as fair price shops, health centers, and educational institutions. The chapter discusses a new law, the Hindu Succession Amendment Act (2005), which grants Hindu women equal rights to agricultural land, challenging traditional practices.

The concluding section encourages students to survey public services in their villages or nearby areas. It suggests listing services, observing their functioning, and identifying potential improvements. The exercise aims to promote awareness and discussion about the efficiency and accessibility of public services.

The questions at the end of the chapter encourage reflection on the roles of different administrative officers, the functions of the police, the implications of the new law for women, and personal observations about women owning property in the community.