

## **CHAPTER- 3**

### **HOW THE STATE GOVERNMENT WORKS**

#### **EXCECISES:**

**1. Use the terms ‘constituency’ and ‘represent’ to explain who an MLA is and how is the person elected?**

**Answer:**

1. An MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) is the person affiliated to a political party or independent who represents a constituency {an area}.
2. The person is elected in the following manner:
  - A specific area is called a constituency.
  - All the adults above 18 years of age are the voters.
  - They vote for the candidate of their choice.
  - The person who gets the maximum number of votes is declared elected.
  - The elected representative is called an MLA.

**2. How did some MLAs become Ministers? Explain.**

**Answer:** The party which is elected in the majority for the Legislative Assembly forms the government. As per constitutional provisions the ruling party elects its leader who is called the Chief Minister as the head of the government. The Chief Minister, in consultation with the Governor, constitutes a cabinet which includes members of his/her party as ministers. The MLAs who become ministers are allotted with a portfolio. Here the MLAs turned ministers become accountable for the entire state for that particular portfolio.

**3. Why should decisions are taken by the Chief Minister and other ministers be debated in the Legislative Assembly?**

**Answer:**

The decisions taken by the Chief Minister and other ministers should be debated in the Legislative Assembly because of the following reasons:

1. The decisions, it is not necessary, taken by the Chief Ministers and ministers are beneficial to one and all.
2. All the MLAs should know about them.
3. Important suggestions may be incorporated in the final decisions.

4. Adversely affecting points are deleted after the debate.
5. The decisions so taken are the decisions of all the members and hence the people.

**4. What was the problem in Patalpuram? What discussion/actions were taken by the following? Fill in the table.**

**Answer:**

Public meeting	
Legislative Assembly	
Press conference	
Chief Minister	

**Answer:** Patalpuram was facing an acute crisis of water

Public meeting	Condemned the government and showed protest put their demand to govt.
Legislative Assembly	Discussed the issue and decided the course of action.
Press conference	The health minister presented the plan of action initiated by govt.
Chief Minister	Visited the village of patalpuram announced compensation to the affected families, also clarified the future action to solve problem.

**5. What is the difference between the work that MLAs do in the Assembly and the work done by government departments?**

**Answer:** The difference between the work that MLAs do in the Assembly and the work done by government departments is that every department is headed by a minister who is also an MIA. The minister approves any work done or proposed by the department. The department is responsible for the projections and completion of the work whereas MLAs or ministers coordinate between the Assembly and the departments.

## **2 MARK QUESTIONS:**

**1. How is the Governor of a state-appointed? [V. Imp.]**

**Answer:** The Governor of a state is appointed by the Central Government.

**2. Whose responsibility is it to nm various government departments or ministers?**

**Answer:** It is the responsibility of the Chief Minister and other ministers to run various government departments or ministers.

**3. How will you define a Legislative Assembly?**

**Answer:** A Legislative Assembly is a place where all the MLAs, from the ruling party as well as the opposition, meet to discuss various things.

**4. Define the term ‘government’. [Imp.]**

**Answer:** The term ‘government’ refers to the government departments and various ministers who head them.

**5. Who is the head of the executive?**

**Answer:** The Chief Minister is the head of the executive.

**6. Why did the Chief Minister and the minister for health visit Patalpwam district?**

**Answer:** They went to visit the families who had lost their relatives due to the spread of diarrhea. They also visited people in hospitals.

**7. Why are press conferences organized?**

**Answer:** Press conferences are organized to discuss various current issues.

**8. What do you know about wallpaper?**

**Answer:** Wallpaper is an interesting activity through which research can be done on particular topics of interest.

**9. Why do people in a democratic set up organize meetings?**

**Answer:** They do so to voice their opinions and protest against the government if any of its actions is not in their favor.

**10. The government works at three levels. Name them.**

**Answer:** The government works at three levels namely

- Local
- State
- Natural

### **4 MARK QUESTIONS**

**1. What do you mean by an MLA? Is it necessary to become a member of any political party to become an MLA? [V. Imp.]**

**Answer:** The term MLA stands for a Member of the Legislative Assembly. He/She is elected through a general election and represents a particular constituency. It is not necessary for one to be a member of a political party to become an MLA. He/she can contest the election as an independent candidate also. In some cases, he/ she is sponsored by a political party. But one thing is necessary that he/she must be a citizen of India and fulfill the requisite qualifications for the post.

**2. What is the process of the formation of government in a state? [Imp.]**

**Answer:** A general election is conducted to elect representatives from various constituencies. The party which earns more than half of the total seats is said to be in a majority. That party is usually called for forming the government. Sometimes, no party gains a clear majority. In that case, the party with maximum elected members tries to get support from the like-minded parties or independent candidates. The party that proves to have maximum supporters in that way is allowed to form a government. Otherwise, there would be re-election,

**3. What is the role of the party that does not form a government? [V. Imp.]**

**Answer:** As per the Constitution all the parties which do not take part in the formation of a government are called opposition parties. In our democratic set up the role of the opposition parties is in no way less important than the ruling party. The opposition parties keep a watch over the functioning of the ruling party. They take part in every discussion and debate held in the Assembly. They can check and protest any wrong action of the government.

**4. Who becomes a Chief Minister? What is his/her role in a state? [Imp.]**

**Answer:** Chief Minister is the leader of the ruling party. He/She is elected out of the total members of the party gaining majority in the general election. He/she is the executive head of the government. He/She is responsible for every action of the government. He/she also coordinates between the government at the centre and the state.

**7MARK QUESTIONS:**

**1. How does a government function in a state? [V. Imp.]**

**Answer:** A government is headed by the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister, in order to manage the functioning of the government, appoints ministers at various levels like cabinet ministers, state ministers, and deputy ministers. Every government department is headed by a cabinet minister who is directly accountable for the functioning of the particular department. The heads of the government departments who are bureau rates are responsible for the handling of the government decisions. The bureau rates project and get the works completed. The ministers give approval to the works.

**2: Explain the structure of the state government and its key components.**

**Answer:** The state government comprises three key branches: the legislative, executive, and judiciary. The legislative branch creates laws and consists of the State Legislature, which is bicameral in some states (having two houses: the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council) and unicameral in others (only the Legislative Assembly). The executive branch implements laws and policies, headed by the Governor as the constitutional head of the state and the Chief Minister as the head of the government. The judiciary interprets laws and resolves legal disputes in the state through various courts, with the High Court being the highest authority in the state's judiciary.

**3: Describe the functions of the State Legislature and its significance in the state government.**

**Answer:** The State Legislature is responsible for making laws and includes the Legislative Assembly and, if applicable, the Legislative Council. Its primary functions include lawmaking, budget approval, discussing state policies, and

representing the interests of the citizens. The significance of the State Legislature lies in its role as a democratic institution that reflects the will and aspirations of the people at the state level.

**4: Explain the roles and powers of the Governor in the state government.**

**Answer:** The Governor is the constitutional head of the state and holds various roles and powers. They are responsible for appointing the Chief Minister and other ministers, giving assent to bills passed by the State Legislature, summoning and dissolving the State Legislature, and ensuring the proper functioning of the state machinery. The Governor also has discretionary powers to take action in certain situations, such as in the appointment of the Chief Minister when no party has a clear majority after an election.

**5: Discuss the functions and responsibilities of the Chief Minister in the state government.**

**Answer:** The Chief Minister is the head of the state government and performs several functions and responsibilities. They lead the Council of Ministers, formulate policies and decisions, supervise the administration, represent the state both nationally and internationally, and play a crucial role in the legislative process by introducing bills and ensuring their passage. The Chief Minister is accountable for the governance and development of the state.

**6: Elaborate on the role of the Judiciary in the state government and its significance.**

**Answer:** The Judiciary in the state government is responsible for interpreting laws, ensuring justice, and resolving disputes. It includes various courts, with the High Court being the apex body in the state's judiciary. The significance of the Judiciary lies in its role as an independent and impartial body that safeguards the rights and liberties of citizens, upholds the Constitution, and ensures the rule of law within the state.

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. Who are elected as Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs)?

- a) Appointed by the President
- b) Chosen by the Prime Minister
- c) Elected by the people
- d) Selected by the Governor

Answer: c) Elected by the people

2. What is the responsibility of the ruling party in the Legislative Assembly?

- a) To support the opposition
- b) To criticize the government's actions
- c) To form the government and propose laws
- d) To ensure no laws are passed

Answer: c) to form the government and propose laws

3. Who appoints the Chief Minister and other ministers in a state?

- a) President
- b) Prime Minister
- c) Governor
- d) Chief Justice



Answer: c) Governor

4. What is the primary function of the Legislative Assembly?

- a) Run government departments
- b) Discuss and debate various issues
- c) Appoint the Chief Minister
- d) Approve the state budget

Answer: b) Discuss and debate various issues

5. What is the purpose of a press conference by government officials?

- a) To criticize the opposition
- b) To announce new policies
- c) To answer questions from reporters
- d) To discuss internal party matters

Answer: c) to answer questions from reporters

### **How the State Government Works Summary:**

The NCERT Class 7 Social and Political Life – II Chapter 3 talks about the following topics:

1. Who is an MLA?
2. A debate in the Legislative Assembly
3. Working of the government

Social and Political Life – II is an important book for Class 7 Social Science subject. Apart from this chapter, the full set of [NCERT Solutions for Class 7 Social](#)

Science is given in the linked article. You can also find a set of sample papers, model question papers, **previous year question papers** in our website that are free of cost.