

CHAPTER-III

PARLIAMENT AND MAKING OF LAWS

2MARKS QUESTIONS

1 What is the take-off point for a democracy?

Ans. The take-off point for a democracy is the idea of consent, i.e. the desire, approval and participation of people.

2 What do you understand about the term democracy?

Ans. A system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives is referred to as democracy.

3 What is the basic idea of a democracy?

Ans. The basic idea in this kind of democracy is that the individual or the citizen is the most important person and that in principle the government as well as other public institutions need to have the trust of these citizens.

4 Why is the approval of people in a democracy important?

Ans. Unless the citizens, i.e. the people of the country are not satisfied with their representatives and are not in approval of them, then the purpose of a democracy would not be fulfilled.

5 How do people give approval to the government?

Ans. One way of doing so is through elections. People would elect their representatives to the Parliament, then, one group from among these elected representatives forms the government. The Parliament, which is made up of all representatives together, controls and guides the government. In this sense people, through their chosen representatives, form the government and also control it.

6. When was the Indian Parliament created?

Ans. The Indian Parliament was created after 1947.

7. What does the Indian Parliament represent?

Ans. Created after 1947, the Indian Parliament is an expression of the faith that the people of India have in principles of democracy.

8. Give some features of the Indian Parliament.

Ans. Created after 1947, the Indian Parliament is an expression of the faith that the people of India have in principles of democracy. These are participation by people in the decision-making process and government by consent. Elections to the Parliament are held in a similar manner as they are for the state legislature. The Lok Sabha is usually elected once every five years. Each of these constituencies elects one person to the Parliament.

9. What does the Parliament of India consist of?

Ans. Parliament of India consists of the President, the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.

10. What is the first thing that happens after the Lok Sabha elections?

Ans. After the Lok Sabha elections, a list is prepared **showing how many MPs belong to each political party.**

4 Marks Answer Questions

Q1. How is the national government formed?

Ans. Following the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections, a list of MPs from each political party is compiled. A political party must have a majority of elected MPs in order to create the government. The Lok Sabha has 545 members, 543 of whom are elected and 2 of whom are nominated. To have a majority, a party must have at least half the number of members, or 272 or more. All political parties in Parliament that oppose the dominant party or coalition comprise the opposition. The largest of these parties is referred to as the Opposition party.

Q2. What is meant by the Opposition parties? What role do they play in the government?

Ans. Following the announcement of election results, the leader of the party with the clear majority of elected members forms a government. The opposition is made up of the other political parties. The largest of these parties is referred to as the Opposition party.

Opposition parties are critical to the healthy operation of a democracy. They keep the government in check by revealing flaws in various programmes and activities. They also rally public support for their own policies.

Q3. How do the individuals give approval to the government?

Ans. Elections are one method of providing consent to the government. People would vote for their representatives in Parliament. Then, from among these elected delegates, one group becomes the government. The Parliament, composed of all MPs, controls and guides the government. Thus, the people construct and control the government through their elected representatives.

Q4. Describe the three categories of ministers that assist the Prime minister.

Ans. The Council of Ministers is divided into three categories:

Cabinet members include: Cabinet Ministers are responsible for crucial ministries such as Home, Defence, Finance, External Affairs, Railways, and so on.

Ministers of State: They may or may not be in charge of a portfolio on their own.

Deputy Ministers: These individuals provide assistance to Cabinet Ministers and the Council of Ministers.

Q5. “With the coming of Independence we are going to be citizens of a free country”. What did this mean for India?

Ans. We were going to be citizens of a free country with the arrival of independence. This did not mean that the government could do whatever it wanted; rather, it meant that the government had to be sensitive to the interests and desires of the people. The ambitions and objectives of the freedom struggle were realized in independent India. The Constitution established the principle of universal adult franchise, i.e. that all adult citizens of the country have the right to vote.

7 Marks Answer Questions

Q1. How are the representatives elected to the Parliament in India?

Ans. Because it is the people's representative, the Parliament under our system wields enormous authority. Elections to the Parliament are conducted in the same manner as elections to the state legislature. The Lok Sabha is elected every five years on average. There are various constituencies in the country. Each of these constituencies sends one representative to Parliament. Candidates for elections typically come from several political parties. These candidates are elected as Members of Parliament, or MPs. The Parliament is made up of these MPs.

Q2. Why do you think our national movement supported the idea that all adults have a right to vote?

Ans. Since people from all areas of life joined in our war for independence, our national movement backed the principle that all adults had the right to vote. They came from a variety of backgrounds, but they were united in their desire for a free, equal, and independent nation where the people would make the decisions. The only way this might happen is through elections, which give ordinary people a vantage point from which they may consent to and approve of a government that “they” have the right to pick.

Q3. Write a short note on Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

Ans. The Rajya Sabha serves largely as the Parliament's representation for India's states. It can also begin legislation, and in order to become law, a bill must pass through the Rajya Sabha. As a result, it plays an essential role in evaluating and amending laws proposed by the Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha is composed of members elected by the Legislative Assemblies of various states. There are 233 elected members and 12 nominees by the President.

The Speaker presides over the Lok Sabha, often known as the House of the People, which has 543 members. There are 543 Lok Sabha seats in the country. During a Lok Sabha election, candidates from several political parties run for office. These candidates are elected as Members of Parliament, or MPs. The Parliament is made up of these MPs.

Q4. What is 'Question hour' in Parliament?

Ans. Question Hour is the first hour of every session of a Parliament Session. During 'Question hour,' members pose questions to certain government ministries. The relevant Ministries must respond to these Questions within a specific deadline.

The questions addressed during 'Question Hour' expose the Government's flaws while also bringing to light the citizens' opinions through their representatives, particularly the MPs.

Q5. Why are laws required?

Ans. Laws are essential to:

Prevent people from engaging in a variety of unjust social practices.

Prohibit the practise of untouchability, which has caused millions of people to suffer.

Ensure equality among Indian citizens.

Provide methods to govern activities in order to get the most out of all types of resources.

The parliament is very crucial in the legislative process. It must be responsive to the demands of the people in order to do this.

As an example: To protect women from domestic injury and violence by husbands, Parliament passed the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 in 2006.

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

Ans: MLAs and the Election Process:

- An MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) is an elected representative at the state level. Each state in India is divided into geographical areas called constituencies. An MLA represents a specific constituency in the State Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha).
- During elections, individuals known as candidates contest from various political parties or as independents. They seek the votes of the residents within a particular constituency. The candidate who receives the majority of votes in a constituency becomes the MLA representing that area.

7. Discuss with your teacher the difference between a State Legislative Assembly

(Vidhan Sabha) and the Parliament (Lok Sabha).

Ans: State Legislative Assembly vs. Parliament (Lok Sabha):

- The State Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) is responsible for making laws at the state level. MLAs represent constituencies within a state, and the assembly works on state-specific issues.
- Parliament (Lok Sabha), on the other hand, is the national legislative body. Members of Parliament (MPs) represent constituencies from across the country. The Lok Sabha discusses and makes laws on national issues and subjects falling under the Union List.

8. From the list below, identify the work of a State government and that of a Central government.

(a) The decision of the Indian government to maintain peaceful relations

with China.

(b) The decision of the Madhya Pradesh government to discontinue Board

exams in Class VIII for all schools under this Board.

(c) Introduction of a new train connection between Ajmer and Mysore.

(d) Introduction of a new 1,000 rupee note.

Ans: State Government and Central Government Responsibilities:

- (a) The decision of the Indian government to maintain peaceful relations with China is a matter falling under the purview of the Central government.
- (b) The decision of the Madhya Pradesh government to discontinue Board exams in Class VIII for all schools under this Board is a state government matter.
- (c) Introduction of a new train connection between Ajmer and Mysore is likely a decision made by the Central government, specifically the Ministry of Railways.

- (d) Introduction of a new 1,000 rupee note is a decision made by the Central government through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

9. Fill in the blanks with the following words.

universal adult franchise; MLAs; representatives; directly

Democratic governments in our times are usually referred to as representative

democracies. In representative democracies, people do not participate

but, instead, choose theirthrough an election process. These

meet and make decisions for the entire population. These days, a government

cannot call itself democratic unless it allows what is known as

This means that all adult citizens in the country are allowed to vote.

Ans:Democratic governments in our times are usually referred to as representative democracies. People do not participate directly but, instead, choose their representatives through an election process. These representatives meet and make decisions for the entire population. These days, a government cannot call itself democratic unless it allows what is known as universal adult franchise. This means that all adult citizens in the country are allowed to vote.

10. You have read that most elected members whether in the Panchayat, or the Vidhan

Sabha or the Parliament are elected for a fixed period of five years. Why do

we have a system where the representatives are elected for a fixed period and not for life?

Ans: Fixed Term for Representatives:

- Representatives are elected for a fixed period of five years to ensure accountability and prevent the concentration of power. A fixed term allows for regular assessment of the government's performance and provides citizens with the opportunity to choose new representatives based on their actions and policies.

11. You have read that people participate in other ways and not just through elections

to express approval or disapproval of the actions of government. Can you describe

three such ways through a small skit?

Expressing Approval or Disapproval: Small Skit:

- Skit Title: "Voices of the People"

- Characters: Citizen 1, Citizen 2, Protester, Social Media Enthusiast
- Scene 1:
 - Citizen 1 and Citizen 2 discussing government policies at a coffee shop.
 - Citizen 1 expresses disapproval of a recent decision.
 - Citizen 2 suggests participating in a peaceful protest.
- Scene 2:
 - Protester holding a placard outside a government office.
 - Shouting slogans and attracting attention to the cause.
- Scene 3:
 - Social Media Enthusiast posting about the protest on various platforms.
 - Encouraging online discussions and raising awareness.
- Conclusion:
 - The skit highlights how people express approval or disapproval through dialogue, peaceful protests, and social media engagement, showcasing the multifaceted ways citizens can participate in the democratic process

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1 Which is the highest law making body in our country?

- A) Rajya Sabha**
- B) Lok Sabha**
- C) Court**
- D) None of these**

Ans. B) Lok Sabha

Q2. Which are the main types of Bills?

- A) Money Bills**
- B) Financial Bills**
- C) Ordinary Bills**
- D) All of the above**

Ans. D) All of the above

Q3 How many members are there in the Rajya sabha?

- A) 240 elected members**
- B) 233 elected members**
- C) 230 elected members**
- D) None of these**

Ans. B) 233 elected members

Q4 How Many members are nominated by the president in Rajya sabha?

- A) 15**
- B) 14**
- C) 12**
- D) None of these**

Ans. C) 12

Q5 Who demanded the elected members in the legislature?

- A) British**
- B) Non ruling party**
- C) Indian National Congress**
- D) None of these**

Ans. C) Indian National Congress

Q6 The Government of India Act came out in _____.

A) 1910

B) 1909

C) 1911

D) 1905

Ans. B) 1909

Q7 For General elections, electronic voting machines were used for the first time in _____.

A) 2001

B) 2005

C) 2004

D) 2009

Ans. C) 2004

Q8 _____ demanded from the British government in 1985 to allow elected members in the legislature.

A) Indian National Congress

B) Swatantra Party

C) Republican Party

D) Hindu Mahasabha

Ans. A) Indian National Congress

Q9 The idea of _____ is the take off point for a democracy.

A) Republic

B) consent

C) freedom

D) monarchy

Ans. B) consent

Q10 An individual gives her consent to the government with the help of _____.

A) movements

B) elections

C) opposition

D) Parliament

Ans. B) elections

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Q1 _____ is made up of all the representatives elected by the Indian people.

Ans. Lok Sabha

Q2 MLAs are the elected representatives of _____

Ans. State Legislature

Q3 The Lok Sabha was formed in _____.

Ans. 1947

Q4 In the 2014 elections, _____ was the leading party of the country.

Ans. Bharatiya Janata Party

Q5 The President appoints _____ members of Rajya Sabha.

Ans. 12

Q6 Every _____ years, the elections are held in India to elect the representatives of Lok Sabha.

Ans. five

Q7 _____ is a party based in Maharashtra.

Ans. Shiv Sena

Q8 The leader of Ruling Party in the Lok Sabha is _____

Ans. Prime Minister

Q9 _____ functions based on representation of states.

Ans. Rajya Sabha

Q10 There are _____ elected members in the Lok Sabha.

Ans. 2

Q11 _____ heads the Rajya Sabha.

Ans. Vice President

Q12 The members of _____ make laws to run the country.

Ans. Lok Sabha

Q13 To form a government, a party must win at least _____ seats in Lok Sabha.

Ans. 272

Q14 Rajya Sabha has _____ elected members.

Ans. 233

Q15 There are _____ elected members in the Lok Sabha.

Ans. 543

Parliament and the Making of Laws summary

In the context of an 8th-grade understanding, the concept of "Parliament and the Making of Laws" involves grasping the basic structure and functions of a parliamentary system, as well as the process through which laws are made. Here's a summary:

1. Structure of Parliament:

- Parliament is the supreme legislative body in many countries.
- It is typically composed of two houses: the lower house (e.g., the House of Commons) and the upper house (e.g., the House of Lords or the Senate).
- Members of the lower house are usually elected by the public, while members of the upper house may be appointed or have other methods of selection.

2. Functions of Parliament:

- Parliament plays a crucial role in lawmaking, representing the interests and concerns of the people.
- It also serves as a forum for debate, discussion, and decision-making on national issues.
- Parliament holds the government accountable by scrutinizing its actions and policies.

3. Lawmaking Process:

- The process of making laws involves several stages.

- **Proposal or Bill:** A proposed law, known as a bill, is introduced in either house of Parliament. It can address various issues, from social matters to economic policies.
- **Debate and Committee Stage:** Members of Parliament (MPs) discuss the bill in detail, and it may be referred to a committee for closer examination.
- **Voting:** After debates and any necessary amendments, members vote on the bill. If it receives majority support, it moves to the next stage.
- **Second House:** In bicameral systems, the bill goes through a similar process in the second house.
- **Royal Assent:** Once both houses agree on the final version, the bill is sent to the head of state (monarch or president) for approval, known as royal assent. Once granted, the bill becomes law.

4. **Public Participation:**

- In a democratic system, public opinion is crucial. Citizens can influence the lawmaking process by expressing their views through various means, such as contacting their representatives or participating in public consultations.

5. **Checks and Balances:**

- Parliament acts as a check on the government's power. Through questioning, debates, and investigations, it ensures that the government is acting in the best interests of the people.