

**SUBJECT -CIVICS**

**CHAPTER – 1<sup>st</sup>**

**CHAPTER NAME – POWER SHARING**

**Ques 1. What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.**

**Ans ->**What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these. Power-sharing is a vital ingredient of any constitution. Power-sharing ensures that there is an optimum balance between different sections in the society. Each and every state should have some form of power-sharing. The chances of opportunity to every citizen increases. Power-sharing has its own value in a democracy. This ensures the stability of political order.

**Forms of power-sharing**

There are different forms of power-sharing in modern democracies which are listed below:

**Horizontal distribution of power:**

- Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.
- Example – India This distribution ensures that none of the organs can exercise and utilise unlimited power.
- Each and every organ keeps an eye on the others.
- This system of arrangement is called a system of checks and balances.

**Vertical distribution of power:**

- Power can be shared among governments at different levels.
- A general central government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or state and regional level.
- Example – India Union Government that is Central government and State Government.

**Power-sharing between different social groups:**

This can be achieved by sharing the power between different social groups enhancing the participation in democratic and power systems. Reservation is a such policy.

**Power-sharing between political parties, pressure groups and movements:**

- This kind of power-sharing competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand.
- For longer duration, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.
- Certain Interest groups like businessmen, farmers, traders etc. will also have a share in governmental power either by participating directly through committees or indirectly by influencing the decision- making process.

**Ques 2. State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power-sharing with an example from the Indian context.**

**Ans->** Opposition to the notions of undivided political power led to the emergence of the idea of power sharing. Power sharing will bring out better outcomes is the prudential reason.

Emphasizing that the act of power sharing is valuable, is the moral reason behind power sharing.

#### **Moral Reason for Power Sharing**

- A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects.
- Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.
- This is a deeper reason which explains why power sharing is good for democracies.
- Through participation, citizens acquire a stake in the system in a legitimate government.
- People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.
- Example from India: Reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. This allows the weaker sections also to participate in the running of the Government.

**Ques 3. After reading this chapter, three students drew different conclusions. Which of these do you agree with and why? Give your reasons in about 50 words.**

**Thomman - Power sharing is necessary only in societies which have religious, linguistic or ethnic divisions.**

**Mathayi - Power sharing is suitable only for big countries that have regional divisions.**

**Ouseph - Every society needs some form of power sharing even if it is small or does not have social divisions.**

**Ans ->Ouseph's statement is the most logical, and thus, should be agreed on. Power sharing not only prevents conflict between various groups in the society but it also inculcates a sense of worth in the citizens. The people will be more satisfied with the government if they have a say in the decision-making process. It makes a society relatively more stable and lessens the probability of conflict in a country.**

**Ques 4. The Mayor of Merchtem, a town near Brussels in Belgium, has defended a ban on speaking French in the town's schools. He said that the ban would help all non-Dutch speakers integrate in this Flemish town. Do you think that this measure is in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power sharing arrangements? Give your reasons in about 50 words.**

**Ans→No, This measure is not in keeping with Belgium's power sharing arrangements. The arrangements seek to maintain peace between the French and Dutch-speaking communities. By banning French, the mayor will cause civil unrest. Both the languages should be made acceptable in the town's schools. This bilingual education system will be a better way to integrate the people of the town.**