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**CHAPTER-2**

**ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN HEALTH**

Qs 1. What is health?

Ans. Health means our ability to remain free of illness and injuries.

Qs 2.(Imp) “Health care in India is not available to all.” Comment.

Ans. It is true. Even with numerous positive developments in medical sciences, we are not able to provide proper health care facilities to people. Here are a few examples to prove it:

1. Most doctors settle in urban areas. People in rural areas have to travel long distances to reach a doctor.
2. Many people die from tuberculosis and malaria every year.
3. We are not able to provide clean drinking water at all. 21% of the communicable diseases are water borne.
4. Half of the children in India do not get adequate food to eat and are undemourished.

Qs 3. Name some communicable diseases which are water borne.

Ans. Diar rhoea, worms, hepatitis etc.

Qs 4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the fourth largest producers of medicines in the world and is also a large exporter of medicines.

Ans. India.

Qs 5. Name some healthcare facilities that can provide the required care and services that patients need.

Ans. 1. Health centres

2. Hospitals

3. Laboratories for testing

4. Ambulance services

5. Blood banks.

Qs 6. Who are required in order to run the health care facilities?

Ans. 1. Health workers

2. Nurses

3. Qualified doctors

4. Heath professionals.

Qs 7.(Imp) What do you mean by a Public healthcare system?

OR

What do you mean by Public health services?

Ans. This is a system of hospitals and health centres run by the government. They are linked together so that they cover both rural and urban areas and can provide treatment to all kinds of problems.

Qs 8. What are the different types of health care facilities?

Ans. 1. Public health services

2. Private health services.

Qs 9.(Imp) Describe the Public health services available in the rural areas.

Ans. At the village level, there are health centres where there is usually a nurse and a village heath worker. They are trained in dealing with common illness and work under the supervision of doctors at the Primary Health Centre (PHO).

Qs 10. Why the health services provided by the government are called ‘public’?

Ans. It is called so because of the following reasons:

1. The resources needed to run these services are obtained from the money that we, public, pay to the government as taxes.
2. These facilities are meant for everyone.

Qs 11. What are the aspects of the public healthcare services?

Ans. It is meant to provide quality healthcare services either free or at a low cost, so that even the poor can seek treatment. It also take action to prevent the spread of diseases such as TB, malaria, jaundice, cholera, diarrhea, chikungunya, etc.

Qs 12.(Imp) What do you mean by Private health services?

Ans. As the name suggests, private health care facilities are not owned or controlled by the government. Unlike the public health services, in private facilities, patients have to pay a lot of money for every service that they use.

Qs 13. What are the private healthcare facilities in rural areas?

Ans. One can find Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs) in rural areas.

Qs 14.(Imp) What are the private healthcare facilities in urban areas?

Ans. Urban areas have large number of doctors, many of them providing specialized services. There are hospitals and nursing homes that are privately owned. There are many laboratories that do tests and offer special facilities such as X-ray, ultrasound, etc. There are also shops from where we buy medicines.

Qs 15. Give an example to show that the private services encourage practices that are incorrect.

Ans. Private services are expensive. At times cheaper methods, though available, are not used. For example, it is common to find doctors prescribing unnecessary medicines, injections or saline bottles when tablets or simple medicines can suffice.

Qs 16.(Imp) Is adequate healthcare available to all?

Ans. 1. In India, we face a situation where private services are increasing but public services are not. What is then available to people are mainly private services. As these services run for profits, the cost of these services is rather high.

2.Mostly people who have are admitted to a hospital for some illness or injury have to borrow money or sell some of their possessions to pay for the expenses.

3. Women are not taken to a doctor in a prompt manner. Women’s health concerns are considered less important than the health of a man in a family.

Thus adequate healthcare is not available to all.

Qs 17. What was done by the Kerala government in order to provide healthcare services to all?

Ans. Forty percent of the entire state budget was given to the panchayats. They could plan and provide for their requirements. This made it possible for a village to make sure that proper planning was done for food, water, women’s development and education.

Qs 18. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is considered to be one of the healthiest countries in South Africa.

Ans. Costa Rica.

Qs 19. What was done by Costa Rican government In order to improve the healthcare facilities to its people?

Ans. They decided not to have an army. This helped the Costa Rican government to spend the money that the army would have used, on health, education and other basic needs of the people. The Costa Rican government provided safe drinking water, sanitation, nutrition and housing. Health education was also considered important.