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**CHAPTER-10**

**STRUGGLES FOR EQUALITY**

Qs 1(Imp). What do you think is meant by the expression ‘power over the ballot box’? Discuss.

Ans. All adults in India have the equal right to vote during elections and this ‘power of ballot box’ has been used by people to elect or replace their representatives. The vote of one person is as good as that of another.

Qs 2. Why it has been difficult for the poor people to get good quality health care?

Ans. This is because of the increasing privatization of health services and the neglect of government hospitals. Poor people do not have the resources to afford expensive private health services.

Qs 3. “Poverty and the lack of resources continue to be a key reason why so many people’s lives in India are highly unequal.” Explain the statement with examples.

Ans.1. A man who sells juice does not have the resources to compete with all of the major companies who sell branded drinks through expensive advertising.

2. Small farmers do not have sufficient resources to grow cotton and, so, has to take a loan from the trader to grow their crop. This forces them to sell their cotton at a lower price.

3. The domestic workers are forced to endure the insults and hardship of working as a domestic helper because they do not have sufficient resources to set up something on their own.

Qs 4(Imp). What are the factors/reasons because of which people are treated unequal in India?

Ans.1. Poverty and the lack of resources continue to be a key reason.

2. Discrimination on the basis of a person’s religion, caste and sex is another significant factor.

Qs 5. What is Tawa Matsya Sangh?

OR

What issue is the Tawa Matsya Sangh (TWS) fighting for?

Ans. It is a federation of Fisherworker’s cooperatives. It is an organization fighting for the rights of the displayed forest dwellers of the Satpura forest in Madhya Pradesh.

Qs 6. What the forest dwellers did after being displaced from the Satpura forest in Madhya Pradesh?

Ans. Some of the displaced people settled around the reservoir and apart from the meager farms found a livelihood in fishing. They earned very little.

Qs 7(Imp). Why did the villagers set up Tawa Matsya Sangh?

Ans. In 1994, the government gave the rights for fishing in the Tawa reservoir to private contractors. These contractors drove the local people away and got cheap labour from outside. The contractors began to threaten the villagers, who did not want to leave, by bringing in hoodlums. The villagers stood united and decided that it was time to set up an organization and do something to protect their rights.

Qs 8. What the Tawa Matsya Sangh did?

Ans. Tawa Matsya Sangh (TMS) organized rallies and a chakka jam (road blockade), demanding their right to continue fishing for their livelihood.

Qs 9(Imp). What response did the people got from the government for their protests?

Ans. The government created a committee to access the issue. The committee recommended that fishing rights shall be granted to the villagers for their livelihood. In 1996, the Madhya Pradesh government decided to give to the people displaced by the Tawa dam the fishing rights for the reservoir.

Qs 10. How the fishworkers were able to increase their earnings after the taking of TMS?

Ans. This was because they set up the cooperative which would buy the catch from them at a fair price. The cooperatives would then arrange to transport and sell this in markets where they would get a good price. They have now begun to earn three times more than they earned earlier.

Qs 11(Imp). How the TMS proved to be a success?

OR

“When people’s organizations get their rights to livelihood, they can be good managers.” Discuss.

Ans. With the taking of TMS, fishworkers were able to increase their earnings. They have now begun to earn three times more than they earned earlier. The TMS has also begun giving the fishworkers loans for repair and the buying of new nets. By managing to earn a higher wage as well as preserving the fish in the reservoir, the TMS has shown that when people’s oganisations get their rights to livelihood, they can be good mangers.

Qs 12. How the fishworkers in the Tawa Matsya Sangh used the Indian Constitution as a living document?

Ans. They hope that the provisions of the Constitution will become a reality through their active participation in this movement. By constantly referring to the Constitution they use it as a ‘living document’, i.e., something that has real meaning in our lives.