

Chapter – 3: How the State Government Works

- Government – 3 tiers (levels) – local, state and national
- Local government – last year
- State government – this chapter
- How does it happen in democracy?
- Role of Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and ministers?
- People express views or make demands?

Whose responsibility?

- Newspaper headline – shortage of water – people getting sick
- Many villages – people drinking unclean water – streams dried up – villagers carrying water across long distances
- District HQ – Patalpuram – receive water every 3 days – district hospital – many patients – acute diarrhea
- T.V. – showing deaths of 10 people
- Children – discussing – terrified of diseases
- Roads blocked – MLA's residence – *gheraoed* – people angry – for everything he had not done
- Opposition leader – leading the people

Who is an MLA?

- Contestant in elections – elected by people – become MLAs – form government
- Every state in India – Legislative Assembly
- Each state – divided into different areas – constituencies
- Himachal Pradesh – divided in 68 constituencies
- Each **constituency** – one person elected by people – become Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA)
- People compete from different parties – MLAs – belong to these parties
- Political party – maximum MLAs – **majority** – ruling party
- All other members – **opposition**
- Himachal Pradesh – total – 68 seats – 2017 results
 - BJP – 44
 - INC – 21
 - CPI-M – 1
 - Independents – 2
- Political party – more than 34 MLAs – majority
- BJP – 44 MLAs – ruling party
- Other MLAs – opposition
- INC – major opposition party – 2nd largest number of MLAs
- After elections – MLAs – ruling party – choose leader – become Chief Minister
- Here – BJP MLAs – chose Shri Jairam Thakur – chief minister
- Chief minister – select other ministers

- After elections – Governor – appoints chief minister and other ministers
- All these ministers – run government departments or ministries
- Legislative Assembly – place – all MLAs meet – discuss – many things
- Some MLAs – dual responsibility – as MLA and as minister

A debate in the Legislative Assembly

- Many students – travelling to state capital – visit Legislative Assembly – impressive building
- Taken upstairs – viewing gallery – view all proceedings
- Assembly – debate on current problem
- MLAs – express opinions – discuss issues
- Chief minister and other ministers – take decisions and run government
- Decisions – approved by Assembly
- MLA 1 –
 - Opposition MLA
 - Akhandgaon – his area – 15 deaths – diarrhea
 - Criticizing government – not taking proper decisions
 - Wanting to call attention – minister of health
- MLA 2 –
 - Opposition MLA
 - Questions government – bad condition of hospitals and not adequate doctors being appointed
 - Asking the government – how are they dealing with current problem
- MLA 3 –
 - Opposition MLA
 - Tolpatti – his area – shortage of water
 - Women – travel 3 to 4 kms – collect water
 - Asking – how many tankers – providing water – how many wells and ponds – cleaned
- MLA 4 –
 - MLA from ruling party
 - States – opposition – exaggerating situation
 - Tells about steps taken by government –
 - Water tankers put in service
 - ORS packets distributed
- MLA 5 –
 - Opposition MLA
 - Telling about poor facilities in hospitals
 - Hospital – no doctor or hospital staff
 - How to ensure – ORS reaching everyone
- MLA 6 –
 - MLA from ruling party
 - States – opposition – unnecessarily blaming the government
 - Previous government – did not do anything
 - Their government – taken a lot of steps
- Above part – debate on Legislative Assembly
- MLAs – together responsible for running government

- Government – government departments and ministers – head – chief minister – all together – executive part

Working of the government

- Legislative Assembly – not the only place – express opinions
 - Newspapers, TV channels – speak regularly about governments
 - Democracy – various ways – people express their views
 - After discussion in Assembly – **press conference**
 - Many people – different newspapers – present
 - Minister and many government officials – present
 - Minister – explained – steps taken by government
 - Reporters – asked – many questions – wrote in newspapers
 - Next week – chief minister and minister of health – visited Patalpuram
 - Visited families of people who died – announced compensation for them
 - Chief minister – also announced – high level enquiry – check needs of people for sanitation – requested minister of Public Works Department (PWD) – check needs of people for drinking water supply
 - People in power – need to take action – various departments – PWD, Agriculture, Health, Education
 - Government – answer questions and convince people – proper steps are taken
 - Media – discuss issues
 - Government – decide to make new laws
 - Example – make it compulsory – Municipal Corporations – ensure – adequate toilets in urban area – ensure – health worker appointed in rural area
 - Laws are made in Legislative Assembly
 - Laws for the country – Parliament – next year
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- Democracy – people – elect MLAs – people – main authority
 - Ruling party members – form the government – some members – appointed as ministers
 - Ministers – in charge of all departments – take decisions – approved by Legislative Assembly