

CBSE CLASS-X Social Science
Important Questions
Political Science Chapter-1
Power Sharing

5 marks Questions

1. How are the ethnic problem solved in Belgium? Mention any four steps which were taken by the governments to solve the problem?

Ans. a). Equal no of Ministers for both the groups: The Belgium constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic group.

b). More powers to the state government: Under the proper power sharing arrangement many powers of the central government were given to state government for the two regions of the country. The state governments were not subordinate to the central government.

c). Equal representation at state and the central level: A separate government has been set up at Brussels in which both the communities have equal representation.

d). Formation of community government: A third kind of government was made that is community government. This community government is elected by the people belonging to one language community. Dutch, French and German speaking people have their own community government.

2. Explain the power sharing arrangement among the different political parties, pressure groups and movements.

Ans. a). In a democracy power is also shared among the different political parties, pressure groups and movements.

b). Democracy provides the citizens a choice to choose their rulers. This choice is provided by the various political parties, who contest elections to win. Such competition ensures that

power does not remain in one hand.

c). In the long run power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.

d). Sometimes this kind of sharing can be direct, when two or more parties from an alliance to contest elections. If their alliance is elected, they form a coalition government and thus share power.

e). In a democracy, various pressure groups and movements also remain active. They will also have a share in governmental power, either through participation in governmental committees or bringing influence on the decision making process.

3. Explain the power sharing arrangement among the different organs of the government.

Ans. a). In a democracy power is shared among the different organs of the government such as Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. This is also called as the horizontal distribution of power sharing.

b). Legislature is lawmaking body, Executive is law implementing body and Judiciary is dispute solving body of the Government.

c). Because it also allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different power.

d). Under this kind of power sharing arrangements, no organ of the government can exercise unlimited powers.

e). Each organ has its own power and checks the powers of other.

f). This results in the in a balance of power among various institutions.

4. Explain the power sharing arrangement among the different social groups.

Ans. a). In a democracy, especially in multiethnic society, power is also shared among social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups.

- b). Community government in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement.
 - c). In some countries, there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and administration.
 - d). In India to provide share in power to backward and other classes, a system of reserved constituencies in assemblies and the parliament is followed.
 - e). This type arrangement is meant to give proper share in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise would feel alienated from the Government.
-

5. Explain the power sharing arrangement among the different levels of the government.

- Ans.** a) Under this people choose separate government at separate levels for example a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial, sub-national or regional level.
- b). Such a general government for the entire country is usually called a federal government.
- c). In India we refer to it as the union government. The governments at the provincial or regional level are called by different names in different countries.
- d). In India these are known as state governments. This system is not followed in all the countries of the world.
- e). The division of power is more important under such type of Governments. A government at different levels enjoys different powers which are given to them by the constitution.
- f). The divisions of power involving higher and lower levels of government are called vertical division of power.
-

6. What are advantages enjoyed by the Sinhala Community in Sri Lanka? Describe the consequences.

- Ans.** (a) The leaders of the Sinhala community tried to ensure the dominance of their

community over the other communities of Sri Lanka after independence.

(b) The adopted a series of majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.

(c) In 1956, an act was passed to recognize Sinhala as the only official language.

(d) Sinhala people were given special preference in government jobs and university admissions.

(e) Buddhism was declared the national religion.

(f) Consequences: All these government measures increased the feeling of alienation among the other Communities. They felt that their language and culture were not given due importance. They also felt that the constitution and the policies of the government denied them to give equal political powers. As a result their relations with the Sinhala community worsened.

7. Describe the population composition of Sri Lanka and the reasons for the formation of Majoritarian government in 1948.

Ans. (a) It is an Island nation south of India. Tamil natives are called Sri Lankan tamils and formed 13% population.

(b) The Indian Tamils whose forefathers had come from India as plantation workers formed 5% population.

(c) The Sinhala Buddhist, who was 74% of the population, formed the majority government after independence in 1948.

(d) Tamils are either Hindus or Muslims, 7% of the people are Christian who are both Tamil and Sinhala.

(e) Sinhalese enjoy majority and can impose their will on the entire country.

8. What measures were adopted by the Belgium government to accommodate regional and cultural diversities?

Ans. (a) In 1970-1993, the constitution of Belgium was amended for times to accommodate

linguistic, cultural and regional differences.

(b) The Dutch and French speaking ministers were equal number in the central government.

(c) Special laws required the support of majority of members from each linguistic group.

(d) Many powers of the central government had been given to state governments of the two regions of the country.

(e) Brussels had a separate government where both communities were given equal representation.

(f) Community government of each section was also introduced.

9. What are the outcomes and the lessons we learnt from the style of governance in Sri Lanka and Belgium?

Ans. (a) We realize that the two countries, Sri Lanka and Belgium, are similar in respect of linguistic and ethnic diversity, yet both of them followed opposite policies to resolve the differences.

(b) The Majoritarianism measures as followed in Sri Lanka created feeling of alienation among the Tamils leading to tensions in the region. It led to civil war waged by the Tamils who fight to create an independent state named Tamil Elam in the North and east of the Island. It is estimated that the war has claimed the lives of more than 68000 people since 1983 and it has caused significant harms to the population and the economy of the country.

(c) The accommodation policies followed in Belgium have worked well so far. They are complicated but nevertheless, have been able to prevent any outbreak of civil war. The policies helped the leaders of the country in creating an enabling environment for everyone to live together with unity without disturbing the social fabric of the country. The policies of the government gave equal representation to the different sections of the society.

(d) Therefore it is clear that to be able to hold the country together, it is indispensable to recognize and regard the culture and other identifying differences of various groups and create mutually acceptable policies for sharing power.

10. Differentiate between Horizontal division of power sharing and Vertical division of power sharing?

Ans.

Horizontal Division of Power Sharing	Vertical Division of Power Sharing
A. Horizontal Division of power, in which power is shared among different organs of the government like legislature, Executive and Judiciary.	A. In vertical division of Power Sharing power is shared among the different levels of the government like Union Government, state government and Lower levels.
B. Different organs of the government exercise the power.	B. Different levels of the government exercise the power of the government.
C. It specifies the concept of check and balance.	C. No specification of the system of checks and balance.
D. It ensures the concept of the expansion of the democracy.	D. It ensures the concept of deepening of democracy.
E. Examples: Legislature, Executive and Judiciary are the organs Government of India.	E. Central Government, State Government and Panchayat Raj are the example of the Vertical division of Power Sharing.