

IMPORTANT QUESTION CLASS – 11 POLITICAL SCIENCE CHAPTER- 8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Question 1.

What does the Panchayati Raj stand for?

Answer:

Panchayati Raj was incorporated on the suggestions given by Balwant Rai Mehta Committee in 1956, which said that without the cooperation of local people, the development work cannot take place at local level. Hence, the three-tier system was established to decentralise the power and to give due representation to the local people to implement the programmes:

- Panchayats at village level.
- Block Committees or samitis at block level.
- Zila Parishad or District Council at district level.

Question 2.

What is the composition of Panchayat Samiti?

Answer:

The block panchayat is known as panchayat samiti, consisting of following members:

- All the Panchs and Sarpanchs of panchayats in a Block elect some members from among themselves.
- In some states, Sarpanchs are ex-officio members of panchayat samiti.
- All the MLAs and MPs of the district are ex-officio members of panchayat samiti.
- The Sub-divisional Magistrate and the Block Development Officers are ex-officio members of panchayat samiti.
- 1/3 seats have been reserved for women as well as for SCs and STs.

Question 3.

What are the main functions of Gram Panchayat?

Answer:

- It works for promotion of agriculture to make arrangements for seeds and to make farmers aware of modern methods of agriculture.
- It makes arrangements for providing primary education to the children.
- It provides sanitary arrangements and facilities in the village.
- It makes efforts to improve health of the people and opens hospitals and dispensaries.
- It also makes arrangements for street lighting also.

Question 4.**What are the main functions of Gram Sabha?****Answer:**

- Gram Sabha elect the Pradhan and Panchs of the Panchayat.
- Even it can remove the Panchs and Sarpanch by passing a resolution by 2/3 majority.
- It approves the annual budget of the village and votes on the imposition of taxes.
- Gram Sabha passes the annual budget of Gram Panchayat.
- The Gram Sabha decides the policies also for development work of the village.

Question 5.**Mention the weaknesses of Panchayati Raj system.****Answer:**

- Due to illiteracy, most of the members are unable to understand the real concept of democracy.
- The village people still have the differences on the basis of caste and community, hence, they do not have real environment for democracy.
- Sometimes, the political parties interferes in the functioning of village panchayats.

Question 6.**What were the constitutional provisions for local self-government before 1992?****Answer:**

- Local government's subjects were assigned to the state government.
- These were included as Directive Principles of State Policy.
- These were non-justiciable and only advisory in nature.
- In 1952, a three tier system of local government was recommended, but these had no powers and functions to look after.
- The elections were not held regularly.
- These had to be dependent on the states for their grants and finances.

Question 7.**Mention some subjects included in the eleventh schedule.****Answer:**

Eleventh schedule was listed with the 29 subjects in 1992 by the 73rd Amendment Act:

- Agriculture and agricultural extension.
- Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development.
- Small scale industries including food processing.
- Rural housing.
- Drinking water.
- Roads, culverts
- Rural electrification
- Poverty alleviation programmes.

- Primary and secondary education.
- Technical training and vocational education.
- Adult and non-formal education.
- Libraries
- Cultural activities
- Markets and fairs
- Health and sanitation.
- Family welfare
- Women and child development
- Social welfare.
- Welfare of weaker sections especially SC's and ST's
- Public Distribution System.
- Fuel and Fodder
- Non-conventional energy resources.
- Maintenance of community assets.
- Fisheries
- Animal husbandry, dairy poultry.
- Soil forestry
- Implementation of land reforms, soil conservation, etc.
- Khadi village and cottage industries.
- Minor forest produce.

Question 8.

Explain the three tier structure of Panchayati Raj alongwith one function of each of them.

Answer:

The Panchayati Raj has three-tier system:

- Gram Panchayat at village level
- Panchayat Samiti at block level
- Zila parishad at district level

Composition of Gram Panchayat:

The members of the Gram Panchayat are elected by Gram Sabha and every adult who is the resident of village has the right to vote in these elections.

Functions:

- Makes arrangements for pure drinking water.
- To improve sanitary conditions.
- Makes efforts for improving health of people by opening hospitals and dispensaries.

Composition of Panchayat Samiti:

- The members are elected directly by Universal Adult Franchise.
- MLAs, MPs, SDM, BDO are the ex-office members.

- Apart, other members are elected and seats are reserved for SC's and ST's in proportion of population.
- 30% seats are reserved for women.
- Its term is for five years.

Functions:

- It looks after all the works of the gram panchayat in the area.
- Promote scientific and modern agricultural practices and distributes seeds, fertilizers and scientific equipments.

3. Composition of Zila Parishad:

- The chairman will be elected by the elected members.
- MPs, MLAs, Collector, Deputy Collectors, SDMs will be ex-officio members.
- The provision of Zila Parishad is composed of elected members.
- A finance commission will be set up to review financial position and to recommend allocation of funds and grants in aid.

Functions:

- To co-ordinate the working of Gram panchayats and panchayat samitis in the district.
- The panchayat samitis pass their annual budget and send it to Zila Parishad. 120

Question 9.

Distinguish between Gram Panchayat and Gram Sabha. What are the functions of Gram Panchayat?

Answer:

Difference:

- Gram Sabha consists of all the adult members (who has attained the age of 18 years) of a village or a cluster of villages constituting Gram Sabha, whereas Gram Panchayat is a small body, whose members are elected by the members of Gram Sabha.
- The term of office of Gram Panchayat is for five years whereas the Gram Sabha is a permanent body and not subject to dissolution.
- Gram Panchayat is an executive organ and monitors and evaluates the activities of Gram panchayat.

Functions:

- Gram Panchayat looks after better health and life of the people to make proper civic amenities as village sanitation, drinking water, arrangements of lightening, etc.
- Gram Panchayat keeps the records of birth and death in village to ensure effective implementation of family planning and family welfare programmes, i.e. animal husbandry, agricultural development, etc.

- Gram Panchayat is responsible for certain development functions at village level, i.e. construction of roads, irrigation, etc.

Question 10.

What is the importance of local bodies in modern times?

Answer:

- The local self bodies are related with the daily life of the people to perform functions related to education, sanitation, public health, etc.
- The local bodies provide the right solution of the local problems due to participation of local peoples, where the central and state governments are unable to pick up the exact nature of problem.
- The local bodies lessen the work-load of the central and state government because they could not spare time to look into the local matters. Hence, local bodies can solve these problems easily.
- The local bodies develop the qualities of citizens to awaken the political consciousness and to experience the sense of liberty and equality which is essential for the success of democracy.
- It creates decentralization of powers, where people directly participate in the daily need, jobs and feed satisfied.